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PART XLVI.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART XLVI.

No. 1.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 1, 5 P.M.)

Sophia, February 1, 1880, 2·55 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING repetition of telegram of 30th ultimo :—

"Following sent to Constantinople :—

"'Nihat Pasha and Fazli, appointed Commissioners by the Porte for the settlement of the question of the scrutiny relating to Vacouf and State property in Bulgaria, were received to-day by the Prince. They expressed themselves well satisfied with their reception by His Highness, who, while expressing his regret that the Porte had not given him notice of their arrival, as he would have wished to have spared them a six weeks' stay in Sophia, during which, on account of his absence, little will be done, promised to do all he could to facilitate discharge of their mission.

"'M. Bormov, ex-President of the Council of Ministers, has been named First Bulgarian Commissioner, and another gentleman at present at Widdin has been offered the post of Second Commissioner.'"

No. 2.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 1, 7·45 P.M.)

(No. 9.)

Vienna, February 1, 1880, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

AUSTRIAN Government, which had communicated to the Prince of Montenegro the suggested compromise about the frontier, have been informed by him that he considers it acceptable, but he adds the condition that the Porte shall indemnify the Mussulmans for the properties which they quit or which he takes to indemnify himself for his war expenses.

Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs does not countenance this pretension.

No. 3.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 2.)

(No. 10.)

Sophia, January 19, 1880.

My Lord,

COUNT KHEVENHÜLLER having informed me on the evening of the 15th instant that he had communicated to M. Natchovitz the instructions which he had

received from his Government on the subject of the return of the Mussulman refugees, as I informed your Lordship in my despatch No. 7 of the 11th instant, I addressed the next day a note to his Excellency, copy of which I have the honour to inclose (accompanied by a French translation), in similar terms to that of my Austrian colleague, and stated at the same time that I was instructed to support the proposal of the Austro-Hungarian Government.

The Russian and German Agents pursued a similar course. Our proposition was communicated to the Council of Ministers yesterday, but as yet no decision has been come to upon it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Mr. Ashburnham to M. Natchovitz.

Sophia, January 16, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

YOUR Excellency will have already received, through the Austro-Hungarian Agent and Consul-General, a statement of the views of his Government on the question of the return to their country of the Mussulman emigrants.

That Government has, I believe, declared that, after having carefully examined the motives alleged by the Bulgarian Government to justify the prohibition imposed, since last November, on the re-entry of the emigrants, and acknowledging that these motives are not without foundation, are unable to admit that any Government has, under any circumstances, the right to close its frontier to its subjects who have emigrated, and that the Bulgarian Government, by persisting in their refusal, will run the risk of awakening in Europe suspicions as to the sincerity of their declarations in favour of their Mussulman subjects.

Under these circumstances, the Austro-Hungarian Government advises the Government of His Highness to send a Commissioner to that part of the frontier where these poor people are collected, with orders to put himself in communication with an Ottoman Commissioner, whose appointment has at the same time been recommended to the Sublime Porte, and to devise measures for reinstating the refugees in their homes.

I have the honour to inform your Excellency that these views are in perfect harmony with those of my Government, and that I am consequently instructed to support and to recommend to your Excellency the adoption of this proposal as the best calculated to put an end to a state of things which, if it continues, cannot fail to produce a bad impression in Europe.

I beg your Excellency to have the goodness to acknowledge the receipt of this note, and avail, &c.

(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 4.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 2.)

(No. 11.)
Sophia, January 19, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 8 of the 14th instant, inclosing a copy of a despatch from Mr. Brophy relative to the dilatoriness displayed by the Governor of Varna in making inquiries into the complaints of the Mussulmans of that district, I have the honour to transmit copy of a note which I addressed on the 15th instant to M. Natchovitz calling his Excellency's attention to the Governor's conduct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure in No. 4.

Mr. Ashburnham to M. Natchovitz.

Sophia, le 15 *Janvier*, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

LE 17 Novembre dernier Mr. Palgrave, agissant en conformité des instructions reçues de Lord Salisbury, a fait remettre, par le Vice-Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique, au Gouverneur de Varna, un exposé des griefs dont les Musulmans du district se plaignent, et il a prié son Excellence de vouloir bien faire une enquête sur l'exactitude des faits allégués.

Le Vice-Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique vient de m'apprendre que malgré les promesses faites par le Gouverneur, à l'heure qu'il est aucun progrès n'a été fait dans l'enquête, et que lors de sa dernière visite son Excellence lui a dit que le surcroît de travail l'a obligé à la suspendre.

Dans ces circonstances, et en vue du laps de temps qui s'est écoulé depuis que Lord Salisbury a demandé ces renseignements à mon prédécesseur, je vous serais bien reconnaissant, M. le Ministre, de vouloir bien faire comprendre au Gouverneur de Varna que c'est très à désirer d'acquérir si c'est possible, sans perte de temps, des preuves de l'inexactitude ou de l'exagération de ces allégations auxquelles, tout le temps qu'elles ne sont pas démenties, l'opinion publique en Europe ajoute foi.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 5.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 2.)

(No. 12.)
Sophia, January 20, 1880.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 234 of the 22nd ultimo I brought to your Lordship's notice a case in which certain Mussulman property in Sophia, the representative of which is a British subject, Mr. Falanga, had been let and sold by the Municipality for sums much lower than what had been offered to him.

At my instance, the Minister of the Interior made inquiries by what right this property had been seized, and, on receiving no satisfactory answer, gave orders that this sale must be considered as null and void, and the property restored to its owner.

It now remains to be seen by what pretext the Mixed Commission will seek to evade these orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 6.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 2.)

(No. 13.)
Sophia, January 20, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 3 of the 7th instant, stating the explanations given to me by the Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs of the recent Decree of the Mixed Commission that the title-deeds of Mussulmans seeking to recover their property must be accompanied by certificates from the Bulgarian Mayors, I have the honour to state that I was informed, shortly afterwards, that the Commission continued to make this demand in all cases, whether the deeds presented were copies or original documents.

I told my informant that I could not make any representations based upon vague statements, but that if he could cite me any case in which this had happened, I would do my best.

Accordingly, on the 17th instant, a certain Suleiman Effendi, representative of property in the neighbourhood of Sophia to the value of £ T. 20,000, called and showed me his title-deeds, which he had frequently presented to the Commission

without any result than being told that he must procure the signature of the Bulgarian Mayor.

I satisfied myself, by personal inspection, that the most recent of these deeds was dated five years previous.

Under these circumstances, I addressed to M. Grecoff, the Minister of the Interior, a private letter, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, pointing out the discrepancy between what had been stated to me and what appeared to be the true version of the case, and warning him that if the Commission persists in their pretension I should make an official protest.

I preferred to adopt this course in the first instance rather than to make at once an official communication, because I have found M. Grecoff, in general, ready to pay attention in any specified case of injustice supported by proofs, and because I should have had to make my official communication through the Minister of Foreign Affairs, by which much time would have been lost.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure in No. 6.

Mr. Ashburnham to M. Grecoff.

(Privé.)
Cher M. Grécoff *Sophia, le 17 Janvier*, 1880.

JE regrette beaucoup d'avoir à vous ennuyer de nouveau avec cette question de la rentrée en possession de leurs biens des Musulmans, mais c'est une question qui m'est tout particulièrement recommandée par mon Gouvernement, et je n'ai qu'à me conformer à ses instructions.

Si vous vous rappelez, lorsque je vous ai parlé de la pétition présentée par les Musulmans, contre la demande faite par la Commission de certificats des Tchorbadjis Bulgares ayant d'accepter les titres de propriété présentés par les Musulmans, vous m'avez dit que ce règlement ne s'appliquait que dans le cas où les anciens titres ayant été perdus, on les a remplacés par des copies faites à Constantinople, et qui étaient souvent irrégulières, et données à deux ou trois individus simultanément.

Je vous ai répondu que les Musulmans en donnaient une autre version, et qu'ils prétendent qu'on demande les certificats pour tous les titres vieux ou modernes.

Je viens maintenant d'acquérir des preuves que ce procédé est effectivement celui qui est suivi par la Commission.

Aujourd'hui Suleiman Effendi Païroff, Vékil de cinquante propriétés, de la valeur de 20,000*l.*, dans les environs de Sophia, a présenté ses titres dont j'ai constaté moi-même que le plus récent était daté de cinq ans, et elle a refusé de les accepter sans la signature des Tchorbadjis.

Pour vous prouver l'inconvénient de ce règlement, je vous citerai ce qui est arrivé à ce même Suleiman Effendi. Il a convenu avec un Bulgare d'une vente d'un terrain pour 6,500 piastres, et lorsqu'il a demandé au Tchorbadji de Boyler Tchiftlik, le nommé Mitto Zoïno, son certificat, celui-ci l'a refusé à moins de recevoir 2,000 piastres.

Je vous écris ces détails en forme d'une lettre particulière, car je suis convaincu par les preuves que vous m'avez déjà données, que vous-même vous ne demandez mieux que de faire justice à toutes ces demandes; mais malheureusement je crains que vos subalternes ne soient pas tous animés des mêmes sentiments; et je dois vous avertir que dans le cas où je ne réussirais pas à faire renoncer à cette demande de la Commission, par des démarches officieuses et amicales, je suis chargé par mon Gouvernement de protester officiellement en son nom contre ce qui constitue une infraction de l'esprit, sinon de la lettre, du Traité de Berlin, qui a crée la Bulgarie, en lui enjoignant la plus complète égalité pour toutes les races et toutes les croyances.

Si les titres des Turcs ne doivent pas être acceptés sans vérification, les titres des Bulgares sont dans le même cas, ayant tous émanés de la même source, et que la conséquence logique de ce principe sera que personne ne peut se sentir sûr de sa propriété.

Le cas que je vous ai cité, de Suleiman Effendi, n'est qu'un seul sur beaucoup d'autres qui se trouvent dans la même position.

J'espère, cher M. Grécoff, que vous pourrez trouver moyen de faire abandonner, par la Commission, cette prétention de demander les certificats des Tchorbadjis, qui ne

peut avoir d'autre résultat que d'entraver les bonnes intentions du Prince et son Gouvernement envers les Musulmans.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 7.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 14.)
My Lord, *Sophia, January 20, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Dalziel, giving an account of the punishment inflicted on the mutineers of the 14th Druzina at Rustchuk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Ashburnham.

Sir, *Rustchuk, December 30, 1879.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Commission referred to in my despatch of the 29th ultimo has terminated its labours, and sentenced the mutineers, in number about 63, to various terms of imprisonment, from 1 month to 15 years; the company (the 3rd) has been formally disbanded, and the remaining numbers have been distributed among the other 7 companies of the Druzina.

I am also informed that the officer in command of the ex-3rd company has been sent to Sophia to be cashiered the service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

No. 8.

Mr. Fenton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 13.)
My Lord, *The Hague, January 31, 1880.*

A NOTIFICATION has appeared in the official Gazette of the Hague to the effect that "the Consulate-General of the Netherlands in Roumania has been raised to the rank of a Diplomatic Agency and Consulate-General, and that M. J. A. Keun, hitherto Netherlands Consul-General at Bucharest, has been appointed Diplomatic Agent and Consul-General."

This step has been taken, as I am informed at the Netherlands Department for Foreign Affairs, in consequence of the recognition by this Government of the independence of the Principality of Roumania; but no reference is made in the notification above mentioned to such recognition, nor has it been publicly announced in any other official form.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. P. FENTON.

No. 9.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 2.)

(No. 52. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, January 30, 1880.*

IN a private conversation I had last night at the Court ball with M. de Radowitz, I told him that the Railway Convention having been sanctioned by the Roumanian Chambers, I thought your Lordship would be glad to know the intentions of the

German Government in regard to the question of the recognition of Roumania, which I believed Her Majesty's Government would be anxious to proceed with as soon as possible before the meeting of Parliament.

M. de Radowitz said that Prince Bismarck was still very much fatigued by his journey from Varzin to Berlin, but that in a day or two his Highness would have sufficiently recovered to be able to take the matter into consideration.

M. de Radowitz believed that his Highness was inclined to accept a proposition made some time since by Baron Haymerle, that the Austrian Government should initiate an invitation to the Governments of England, France, and Germany to take the question of recognition into their favourable consideration, but until he could speak to Prince Bismarck on the subject he could say nothing positive about it.

I told my French colleague, Count de St. Vallier, what I had said, and he agreed to hold the same language and to press upon M. de Radowitz the necessity of reopening the recognition question as speedily as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 10.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 33.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 2, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

YOUR despatch No. 86.

If any opportunity offers of ostentatiously showing yourself acting with the German Chargé d'Affaires in favour of the Armenians, it will probably force the French Government to bring Fournier to reason. I do not mean by this to counsel any extreme measures.

No. 11.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 35.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 2, 1880, 6·45 P.M.

YOUR telegram No. 52.

Ascertain views of Austrian Chargé d'Affaires. It would not do for you to be strongly supporting a policy about Montenegro, in conjunction with Italy, to which Austria had a strong objection. It would be better in all Montenegrin matters that you should communicate direct with Sir H. Elliot.

No. 12.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 80.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 2, 1880.

IN your telegram No. 52 of the 31st ultimo your Excellency inquires whether you should give your official support to an arrangement for the settlement of the Montenegrin difficulty, which it appears is favourably viewed by the Italian Government and not unacceptable at the Porte or to Prince Nicholas.

In reply, I have requested you to place yourself in communication with the Austrian Chargé d'Affaires upon this matter, and to ascertain his views, as it would not be desirable that you should strongly support a policy with regard to Montenegro in conjunction with your Italian colleague, to which Austria might have a decided objection.

In order to save time, I consider you would do well to communicate directly with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna upon all matters connected with that Principality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 13.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 44.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, January* 30, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a Circular note of yesterday's date which I have received from M. de Giers respecting the ratification of the Acts of various Commissions instituted by the Treaty of Berlin for the delimitation of the frontiers of Servia, Bulgaria, and Eastern Roumelia.

In Mr. Plunkett's despatch No. 580 of the 10th November last was inclosed the Circular note from the Russian Government proposing that the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople should be furnished with full powers to ratify these Acts.

The Russian Government in their present note propose, at the request of the Porte, conveyed to them by the Turkish Ambassador, to substitute for that mode of procedure an exchange of notes between the Cabinets, and state that they are ready to accept this plan.

I have informed M. de Giers that I have forwarded this new proposal for the consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 13.

M. de Giers to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Circulaire.)
M. l'Ambassadeur, *St. Pétersbourg, le* $\frac{17}{29}$ *Janvier*, 1880.

PAR la note en date du 28 Octobre de l'année dernière le Ministère Impérial a déjà eu l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que nous nous trouvions en possession des Actes de délimitation élaborés par quelques-unes des Commissions Européennes, instituées à la suite du Traité de Berlin. Ces Actes sont (1) l'Acte fixant la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale; (2) l'Acte fixant—(*a*) la frontière Danubienne de la Bulgarie; (*b*) la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Turquie (Macédoine); (*c*) la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Servie; et enfin (3) l'Acte descriptif de la nouvelle frontière de Servie.

Nous avons proposé de sanctionner ces documents en munissant à cet effet les Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople des pleins pouvoirs nécessaires.

L'Ambassadeur de Turquie nous a exprimé depuis le désir de la Porte de substituer à ce mode de procédure un échange de notes entre les Cabinets.

Nous ne voyons pour notre part aucun inconvénient à accepter cette proposition.

Les Actes de délimitation confirmés par un échange de notes, il ne resterait plus qu'à les porter à la connaissance des parties intéressées, conformément aux conclusions des Commissions Européennes, afin qu'ils puissent recevoir leur exécution pratique au moyen d'un bornage sur les lieux par les soins des Délégués des parties susmentionnées.

En priant votre Excellence de nous informer de la décision de votre Gouvernement au sujet de ce qui précède, je vous prie, &c.

(Signé) GIERS.

No. 14.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 3.)

My Lord, *London, February* 3, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that information reached me on the day previous to my departure from Galatz on leave of absence that three batteries of field artillery, (24 guns) had lately arrived at Reni, and that about 1,800 cavalry and 6,000 infantry were now quartered there; and previous to my departure I was able to make further inquiries, and I am led to believe that this information is substantially correct.

I received further intelligence, from a source which I have generally found reliable, that the Russians were commencing fortifications on the upper part of the

River Pruth, between Ungheni, where the railway from Jassy crosses the frontier, and Sculeni, higher up, where the river is crossed by a bridge; I have been unable to obtain confirmation of this news from other sources.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 15.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 9. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, February 2, 1880, 11·30 P.M.*

MY despatch No. 52 of the 30th ultimo.

M. de Radowitz tells me Prince Bismarck was impatient to know your Lordship's opinion in regard to recognition of Roumania.

Personally he is willing to leave initiative to French Government, who are anxious to take lead in the matter, as soon as Austrian Government has invited the three Powers to take question into favourable consideration.

No. 16.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 3, 1880.*

YOURS No. 9.

We are ready to recognize Roumania whenever German and French Governments are prepared to do the same. Our opinion is adverse to further delay, which tends to favour Russian intrigues and to encourage a separatist party that is growing up in Moldavia. Let me know as soon as Prince Bismarck has formed a definite opinion on this subject.

No. 17.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 3, 2 P.M.)

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 3, 1880, 11 A.M.*

M. TOCQUEVILLE is here, and is engaged in some secret negotiations with Palace about a loan. I have failed to ascertain their exact nature. I am told that Captain Dreyssé, the Sultan's French Aide-de-camp, is at Paris with reference to this matter.

Perhaps Lord Lyons might learn something on the subject.

No. 18.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 3, 1880.*

I LEARN from your Excellency's telegram No. 9 of the 2nd instant that Prince Bismarck is anxious to know the opinion of Her Majesty's Government respecting the recognition of Roumania; and that he is himself disposed to leave the initiative in the question to the French Government, who are, as he believes, anxious to take the lead in it, as soon as the Western Powers shall have been invited by the Austro-Hungarian Government to take it into favourable consideration.

I have to-day informed you, by telegraph, that Her Majesty's Government are willing to recognize Roumania whenever the Governments of France and Germany shall be prepared to do so. Further delay is, in their opinion, undesirable, as it tends to favour Russian intrigues in the Principality and to encourage the development of a Separatist party, which is already showing signs of life in Moldavia. Her Majesty's

Government being thus prepared to act, it is necessary that they should be made acquainted, as soon as possible, with the opinion on the subject which may be definitively formed by the German Government. I have consequently asked your Excellency to ascertain and communicate to me the precise views entertained by Prince Bismarck with respect to the period of recognition.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 19.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 3, 10 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, February 3, 1880, 4·10 P.M.*

HIS Highness Prince Alexander left this morning for St. Petersburgh, via Rustchuk, Bucharest, and Vienna.

Bishop Clement is named Regent during Prince's absence.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 20.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 2. Secret.)
My Lord, *Salonica, January 12, 1880.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 5, Secret, dated the 2nd December, 1879, and forwarding copy of Mr. Consul-General Michell's despatch No. 327 of the 2nd November, 1879, on the subject of the intercourse between the Bulgarian party and the promoters of the Panslavonic cause in Russia, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that I have not been able to discover any tangible proof of the alleged complicity of the Acting Russian Vice-Consul at Monastir, M. Lappi, in an intended insurrectionary movement in Macedonia. I hear, however, that M. Lappi, as is the case with M. Hitrowo, the Russian Consul-General at Salonica, and M. Gregoriadis, his subordinate Vice-Consul at Cavalla, is making efforts to separate the Bulgarians in Macedonia from the jurisdiction of the Greek Church. He recently visited Negotin, where (I am told by the Greek Archbishop of Salonica) he has succeeded in inducing the Bulgarian village community to sign, and forward to the Governor-General here, a petition in which they formally express their firm determination to sever all connection with the Greek Patriarchate of Constantinople; and ask that they, and the other Bulgarian communities in Macedonia, should be placed under the direct spiritual jurisdiction of the Bulgarian Exarchate.

The Governor-General acknowledged to me having received and forwarded to the Porte the petition in question; and also admitted that the accounts which have reached him from the spot concur in attributing the authorship of that petition to Russian agency.

I further learn, from various other sources, that M. Hitrowo is very enterprising in the same direction; and that the numerous secret agents employed by him in the interior are actively trying to bring the Greek Hierarchy into discredit in the eyes of the Bulgarian inhabitants—unfortunately not a very difficult task—with the view to promoting a separatist agitation in Church matters in the interest of the Panslavonic cause. The Russian Vice-Consul at Cavalla, who recently paid a visit to his chief here, makes no secret of his having received instructions to promote and encourage a similar movement in his district.

The Greek Archbishop and community of Salonica view with growing anxiety these proceedings; and his Eminence, and many leading Greeks, have expressed to me their apprehension that the Porte, influenced by Russia, may be induced to recognize the jurisdiction of the Exarchate over the Sultan's Bulgarian subjects in Macedonia, a circumstance which, in their opinion, will eventually lead to the incorporation of the Bulgarian districts in this province into the Principality of Bulgaria.

With reference to the intended insurrection in Macedonia, it appears, from all I have heard, from persons who have recently visited Serres, Stroumnitza, Djuma, and Nevrocop, that the Bulgarian Metropolitan of Ochrida, who continues to reside at

Kiustendil, and who, as I reported at the time, took a very prominent part in fomenting disturbances in this province last year, has not given up his aggressive enterprises. My informants confirm the report that many of the men who had been engaged in those disturbances still occupy positions all along the frontier in the direction of Djuma, evidently waiting for an opportunity to renew their incursions, and add that these marauders occasionally fire on the Turkish outposts, and in other ways try to keep the border in a state of perpetual disquietude.

I am, moreover, informed that the above-named Prelate and the Revolutionary Committees in Bulgaria employ secret agents for the purpose of enlisting young peasants in each Bulgarian village on this side of the border, for a short course of military training in the Bulgarian militia, after completing which they will be sent back to their homes, and employed for the purposes of the intended rising.

These designs should receive the serious attention of the Porte and the other Powers interested in the maintenance of order and tranquillity in European Turkey.

Macedonia is almost denuded of troops; and since its garrison has been reduced to 7 battalions of infantry, 1 regiment of cavalry, and 3 batteries of artillery, scarcely 4,000 men in all, brigandage, notwithstanding the exceptional severity of the winter, has again cropped up with renewed vigour and impunity; and I apprehend that further insurrectionary proceedings will be attended with more success than on former occasions. This situation of affairs is very much aggravated by the distant prospect of the settlement of the Greco-Turkish question, the growing troubles in North Albania, and the large number of destitute Mahommedan refugees. The latter are armed, and not likely to let go the opportunity which a rising would give them of committing acts of retaliation on the peaceable inhabitants of this and neighbouring provinces.

Colonel Synge, who has kindly undertaken to distribute relief to the Mahommedan refugees on the Bulgarian border, will avail himself of the opportunity to inquire into and report upon the general state of affairs in that part of Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 21.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 7. Political. Confidential.)
Salonica, January 21, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of a despatch and one inclosure which I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Layard relative to Bulgarian affairs in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 21.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Salonica, January 21, 1880.

Sir,

I AM assured that M. Hitrowo, the Russian Consul-General at Salonica, employs agents in the Bulgarian districts and villages in Macedonia for the purpose of getting up petitions to the Local Consular Corps embodying complaints of Turkish misrule.

I inclose a translated copy of one of these petitions from the village of Katranitza, in district of Vodena.

My Austro-Hungarian colleague told me that he could take no notice of it, as it was unaccompanied by a translation.

I have unofficially called the Vali's attention to the alleged acts of persecution, and shall endeavour to institute inquiries on the spot as to their truth.

I am also told that the Panslav Committees in Bulgaria are urging the Bulgarians in Macedonia to present similar petitions to the foreign Embassies at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 21.

Bulgarian Inhabitants of Katranitza to Mr. Blunt.

[*No date.*]

(Translation from the Greek.)

THE undersigned inhabitants of the village of Katranitza, nahié of Ostrowo, belonging to the Kaïmakamlik of Vodina, take the liberty to present to you the present petition, and warmly beg you to listen to our complaints.

We have always suffered more or less from the neighbouring Turkish villages, but lately crimes have so awfully multiplied as to become perfectly unbearable. We therefore describe the most notorious of them committed within the last few days:—

On the 30th October last some of our compatriots were returning home from the market of Koiliari, at a distance of 10 minutes from Outza and an hour from Kraintzko, both Turkish villages. Suddenly two armed Mahommedans seized their horses, snatched by force whatever money they found on them, and departed. Being left in this most pitiful condition they walked to the nearest Ottoman village, that of Outzan, where they met by chance the Mudir of Ostrowo, to whom they exposed the case. He recommended them patience and went to seize the criminals, but night approaching he returned with no effect, and next day forgot, of course, his promise and his duty.

Every Thursday we have general market in the village. On the $\frac{5}{17}$th November a very bad man from Kraintzko, who often goes about armed, having presented himself before the several butchers, took by force all the meat he wanted; then to the grocers, where he supplied himself plentifully; and thence to the shop-keepers, where he had evidently the intention of doing the same, but happily a good and wise Turk from our village put a stop to it by remonstrating.

On the $\frac{15th}{23rd}$ November a wedding took place in our village, and as the bride was going to the bridegroom's house four armed Turks suddenly appeared, seized the bride's horse, and began to pull her down. Two Christians approached the aggressors begging them not to behave thus; one of the Turks drew his yatagan and cut his hand; the other having his pistol somehow obstructed began to knock him with it on the head and face, causing several bad wounds. The poor villagers seeing this immediately dispersed. Subsequently an Ottoman persuaded them to leave the bride alone, and brought her home to her husband. We complained to the Tchaoush, but he sent us to Ostrowo and Vodina, not wishing evidently to make the criminals his enemies. We went on the same day to the Mudir of Ostrowo, but he did nothing likewise. Then twenty-five of us went to Vodina and expressed the case to the Kaïmakam, but instead of taking energetic measures for the immediate imprisonment of the offenders, he told us to make a petition. Perceiving from this that we have no protection whatever, we take the liberty to communicate the case to you, hoping that the local authorities of Salonica will adopt some energetic measures for relieving our manifold sufferings from the perpetual aggressions of the bordering Ottoman villages, for if an exemplary punishment is not made we shall suffer more in the future, and shall be obliged, we and our families, to perish from sheer want, as we shall have no security for going to the neighbouring villages on market days.

Hoping that these our just complaints will make the due impression, we remain, &c.

The inhabitants of the Village of Katranitza, both old and young.
(Here follow a number of illegible signatures and two seals of the village Muhtars.)

No. 22.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 8. Political.)
Salonica, January 27, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a translated copy of the Proclamation addressed by Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha to the inhabitants of Gusinjé and Plava, and published in the Cossova and Selonik "Gazettes."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Proclamation.

(Translation from the Turkish.)

People of Gussinjé and Plava,

THE Porte, in confirmation of its first declarations, and in conformity with all the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, declares the separation from the Imperial dominions, and the annexation to Montenegro, of the territories of the Gusinjé and Plava district, and consequently any kind of resistance on your part to the reception in these territories of the Montenegrin civil and military authorities being contrary to law, it will draw down misfortunes on you and yours.

Should the Imperial Government wish to protect you from these misfortunes it would have no right to do so. The Porte therefore earnestly and repeatedly recommends you to submit to this abandonment, and to profit from the beneficent measures adopted (this will be your last opportunity) for the assurance of the means of subsistence to such of you as abandon all thoughts of resistance, and desire to quit the territories annexed to Montenegro. And to facilitate the emigration of those who wish to emigrate, it will supply them with all necessary means, and is ready to give them possession of lands fit for cultivation in the Provinces of Monastir and Cossova, and in the Sandjak of Scutari gratis.

In addition to this, the Imperial Government promises to help you by giving seed and other necessaries for your fields, that you may begin to sow, and to exempt you for several years from tithes and property-tax.

Should you not listen to these fatherly counsels and tread under foot such great benefits, the Porte will be necessarily and unavoidably compelled to give up its perseverance and solicitude for the improvement of your condition, and you will be yourselves the only causes of the misfortunes and evils into which you will fall.

No. 23.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February 4.*)

(No. 9. Political.)

Salonica, January 27, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith copy of my despatch of this date to Sir Henry Layard, with copies of its two inclosures relative to affairs in the Vice-Consular districts of Cavalla.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 23.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, January 27, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith to your Excellency copy of a despatch, with its inclosure, from the Acting British Vice-Consul at Cavalla, describing the undue proceedings of the Executive in the election of members of the local "Bedaiet Medjliss" (Court of First Instance), and adverting to the importance of instituting a Commercial Court at Cavalla.

Upon communicating the substance of the above report to the Vali of Salonica, I was informed by his Excellency that he had already telegraphed directions to the Mutessarif of Drama to institute an inquiry into the manner in which the election in question has been conducted.

As regards M. Efefterio Gregorin, the Vali remarked to me that the authorities cannot deprive him of his seat in the Administrative Council.

He is a native of Cavalla and a *bonâ fide* subject of the Sultan; and the fact of his brother being Russian Vice-Consul does not disqualify him for the freedom and privileges of Turkish citizenship.

I beg leave to recommend to your Excellency's consideration and support the desirableness, as suggested by the Acting Vice-Consul, of instituting a properly-organized "Tidjaret," or Commercial Court, at Cavalla, which is the centre of a very important and growing trade in tobacco and other agricultural products of Thrace.

Many questions arise requiring judicial decision on the spot, and both foreign and resident native merchants constantly complain of the inconvenience their commercial interests suffer from the want of such assistance.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 23.

Acting Vice-Consul Pecchioli to Consul-General Blunt.

Cavalla, le 17 *Janvier*, 1880.

Monsieur,

ÉTANT à ma cognition l'intérêt que vous avez de connaître et être renseigné sur la manière par laquelle nos autorités locales administrent la justice et les finances de l'Etat, et respectent les droits des citoyens octroyés par le Gouvernement, je me crois en devoir de vous faire parole d'un fait qui se passe en ce moment à Cavalla, par lequel il vous sera démontré d'une manière nette et claire de quelle façon on applique ici la loi et on respecte la liberté de votation et les droits de la vie politique.

Le Tribunal Civil ("Davié ou Bedaiet Mejlissi") se compose de six personnes—deux Chrétiens, deux Turcs, le Cadi, et le commis. Ces membres devraient être choisis par le peuple et garder leur charge pendant deux années, au terme duquel le peuple, appelé à des nouvelles élections, aurait le droit de confirmer les membres sortant d'office ou en élire des nouveaux. Celle-ci c'est la loi, et vous, M. le Consul-Général, la connaissez parfaitement.

Voici maintenant l'application qu'on a fait et que peut-être vous ne soupçonnez pas :

Nous étions au terme de deux années.

La population, qui en général était satisfait des membres qui allaient sortir, voulait les confirmer; mais trois ou quatre intriguants de la pire espèce avaient décidés autrement, et ayant tiré dans leur parti le Caïmacam, qui est faible, ils voulurent obliger la ville et les villages à signer les yeux fermés une liste de nouveaux membres. Les Agas des villages furent appelé à Cavalla pour opposer leur signature à la liste décrétée par les Camarista. S'étant refusé on les fit rester à Cavalla pendant quatre jours, au terme duquel le Gouverneur, voyant qu'ils ne voulaient pas céder aux intimidations, leur donna la permission de partir.

La population de la ville Cavalla et les Agas des villages avancèrent une protestation au Vali de Salonique, qui, avec une lettre officielle, donna ordre aux autorités de respecter les vœux légitimes du peuple.

Malheureusement, soit par hasard, soit par intrigue, la lettre du Vali adressée au Mütessarif de Drama fut égarée; et le Caïmacam fit nommer les membres nouveaux, malgré les protestations de la majorité, qui envoya même une dépêche au sandjac et à Constantinople, de laquelle je vous remets une copie. On ignore la cause pourquoi réponse n'a pas été donnée à cette dépêche.

La ville de Cavalla est aussi surprise, et je dirai même indignée, de voir dans le Medjliss le frère du Vice-Consul de Russie, homme intriguant et sans aucune instruction, fortement ébranlé dans ses affaires commerciales, qui nuit gravement à la marche régulière des affaires, et que les Turcs accusent d'être le référendaire de l'Agent de Russie pour tout ce qui passe au conak.

De l'exposé que je viens de faire, je crois pouvoir en tirer les conséquences suivantes, que je soumets à votre esprit d'équité: (1) la nécessité de conseiller aux autorités Ottomanes le respect des droits politiques; (2) la nécessité d'éloigner du Medjliss M. Efefterio Gregorin, frère de l'Agent de Russie.

En outre, je dois vous soumettre l'opportunité de former à Cavalla un vrai et propre Tribunal Commercial, avec un Président ou Juge de carrière, opportunité qui me semble évidente, en qu'à Cavalla, pays essentiellement commercial, depuis quelque temps surtout, se sont présentées des affaires très-importantes, qui ont toujours été traitées de la manière la plus imparfaite; et si dans la réforme administrative qu'on attend vous pourrez, M. le Consul-Général, plaider la cause de Cavalla pour ce qui regarde l'institution d'un Tribunal Commercial, je suis d'avis que vous rendrez un service immense, et le pays entier vous en sera reconnaissant.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) BEPT. PECCHIOLI.

Inclosure 3 in No. 23.

The Inhabitants of Cavalla to the Minister of Justice, Constantinople.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.) *Cavalla, December* 14, 1879.

THOUGH our petitions, presented a short time ago to the Provincial, Departmental, and Local authorities, stated that the whole population of the district was satisfied with the former members of the Court of First Instance at Cavalla, from some reason or other these members have been excluded from the Court, their names suppressed, and the election of others has been persisted in. The matter was submitted to the Provincial authorities by our telegram dated the 28th October, 1879. If the appointment depends on the majority, our old members, Haji Mustapha Effendi and Haji Hussein Agha, with Vasilaki Agha and Yorghi Agha, are trusted in by all the population of the district. Please insert their names in the election papers.

The answer is paid for.

(Here follow Signatures.)

No. 24.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 3, 1880, 11 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Minister informs me that he has telegraphed for instructions as to course he is to pursue in Gusinjé affair.

I think it right that you should know that the scheme for exchange of territory which Count Corti has urged his Government to propose to Prince of Montenegro came first from Sawas Pasha. Count Corti tells me that his object in pressing it on his Government is to prevent effusion of blood between Montenegrins and Albanians, which may lead to a state of things in Albania that may encourage a policy of adventure on the part of certain members of the present Italian Government, to which he declares himself resolutely opposed. It appears to me [of] importance that some such arrangement should be come to if possible. I fancy that Austrian Minister sees in it only an Italian intrigue.

(Sent to Vienna.)

No. 25.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 4, 4·30 P.M.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 4, 1880, 3·20 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday respecting one from Sir H. Layard :—

Austrian Government do not appear to share the suspicions of their Minister that the proposal for an exchange of territory with Montenegro is part of an Italian intrigue.

I was told yesterday that they did not wish to be the first to suggest, but that they will see with satisfaction any agreement likely to lead to a prompt settlement of the question, as they are most anxious that it should be disposed of before the spring.

As the adoption of the proposal would involve a departure from the terms of the Treaty, the unanimous acquiescence of the Powers will, I think, be thought necessary.

Austrian Minister at Cettinjé has reported that the suggestion has already been made by the Italian Agent, in the name of his Government, to the Prince, who expressed himself as disposed generally to accept it, but said that he would require an extension of the concession of territory towards Scutari.

No. 26.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 4.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic. *Vienna, February* 4, 1880.

TELEGRAM referred to in my telegram No. 10 was sent to me by Sir H. Layard, dated yesterday.

No. 27.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 105. Secret.)
Constantinople, January 16, 1880.

My Lord,

AN officer of the highest rank in the Ottoman army, who was almost the only Turkish commander who distinguished himself in the war with Russia, and who was for some time in high favour with the Sultan, called upon me to-day to tell me that he had learnt from a source on which he placed full reliance that he and some other officers, including Saïd Pasha (now Governor-General of Aleppo), Réouf (Vali of Adrianople), and Nedjib Pasha (a very intelligent man, recently recalled from the command of the force in Crete), had been denounced by the Minister of Police to His Majesty as conspirators against his throne, and that there was reason to fear that they might be the victims of some arbitrary measures. He fully expected, he said, to be arrested suddenly, as others had been, and to be sent to some distant part of the Empire, if a worse fate did not befall him. He begged me to afford him protection in the Embassy in case he found himself in danger. He spoke in the strongest terms against the dangerous course into which the Sultan was being led by such men as Hafiz Pasha and others, who had obtained influence over His Majesty by working upon his suspicions and fears. Even Ghazi Osman Pasha, he said, could no longer suffer his name to be connected with the arbitrary proceedings of the Palace, and had tendered his resignation to the Sultan. This latter information has been confirmed to me from a perfectly trustworthy source. My visitor declared that the greatest discontent and dissatisfaction prevailed in the army in consequence of the present state of things, and he expressed his conviction that, if any man of influence and determination were to put himself at the head of an insurrectionary movement, he would have the troops with him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 28.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 107.)
Constantinople, January 23, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the substance of an article published in the Turkish newspaper, "Djeridei Havadis." It expresses the opinions of a certain party in Constantinople, which foolishly believes that Turkey can dispense with the European Powers, and especially England, regenerate herself without their assistance, and become once more an Empire sufficiently independent and powerful to defy the rest of the world. Such ideas are industriously instilled into the mind of the Sultan by the infatuated men who now exercise their influence over it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 28.

Extract from the "Djeridei Havadis."

(Traduction.)

LE "Djeridei Havadis," dans un article de fond, examinant l'état actuel de l'Empire, observe que ce dernier n'a rien à espérer de qui que ce soit et qu'il ne devrait compter que sur ces propres moyens pour effectuer son progrès et sa prospérité.

"Nous n'avons," dit-il, "rien de bon à attendre de la Russie, et la preuve en est que douze fois déjà nous sommes venus aux prises avec elle. L'Allemagne est loin de nous et n'agit point, à moins que son intérêt ne soit en jeu. Quant à l'Angleterre, elle est rien moins qu'une Puissance guerrière. Elle a pour habitude de fouler aux pieds, aussitôt que son intérêt l'exige, celui que tantôt elle portait aux nues. En toutes choses et toujours c'est l'égoïsme et l'intérêt qui guident sa politique.

"L'attitude de la France nous est parfaitement connue et l'Italie n'est que le satellite de l'Allemagne.

"Par conséquent, ainsi que nous l'avons maintes fois démontré, nous n'avons rien autre chose à faire que de nous appliquer à notre régénération, en travaillant nous-mêmes avec les forces que nous possédons."

No. 29.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 108. Confidential.)

Constantinople, January 24, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Sir H. Elliot's despatch No. 838, Confidential, of the 29th ultimo, inclosed in your Lordship's despatch to me No. 37 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to state that the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires has informed me that the Sultan was disposed to view the appointment of a Minister Plenipotentiary to represent Austria-Hungary at this Court, instead of an Ambassador, as a slight to his dignity, and as a mark of a hostile feeling towards him on the part of the Austro-Hungarian Government. His Majesty accordingly directed representations to be made on the subject to the Emperor, and received an assurance in reply that circumstances, which had no connection whatever with the political relations between the two countries, rendered it inexpedient to send an Ambassador here at the present time, and that, consequently, a Minister Plenipotentiary had been named to carry on the affairs of the Embassy provisionally, no slight whatever being thereby intended to His Majesty.

Although these explanations have been accepted, some delay took place before the Sultan signified his willingness to receive Count Dubsky, and I have no doubt that His Majesty still suspects that Austria-Hungary has some political reason for not sending an Ambassador to him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 30.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 111. Very Confidential.)

Constantinople, January 24, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Spanish Minister, the Marquis de la Villa Mantilla, informs me that when M. Fournier was first made acquainted with the outrage committed by the sailors of the French man-of-war "Latouche Tréville" on the house of the Spanish Vice-Consul at Alexandretta, he was profuse in his expressions of regret for what had occurred, and had offered to express them in writing. Since then, however, my Spanish colleague tells me, M. Fournier seems less disposed to condemn the proceedings of the French sailors, throwing the blame for their misconduct on the Turkish authorities, and principally on the Kaïmakam, whose dismissal he has demanded, and maintaining that there is an "English intrigue" at the bottom of the affair. Such being the case,

I have thought it desirable to show the Marquis de la Villa Mantilla the report of Vice-Consul Catoni on the subject, translation of which was inclosed to your Lordship in my No. 104 of the 20th instant, in order that he may convince himself that "English intrigue" had nothing whatever to do with the matter, and that the British Agent reported fairly and impartially upon it, not that he required any assurance of the kind, as he is as well acquainted as some other members of the Diplomatic Body with the hallucinations apparently prevailing in the mind of my French colleague with respect to "English intrigues," which he seems to detect on every side, and in every occurrence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 31.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 112. Confidential.)

Constantinople, January 24, 1880.

My Lord,

M. ONOU, the Russian Chargé d'Affaires, called upon me to-day apparently for the purpose of complaining of Her Majesty's Consul-General at Philippopoli. He represented to me that Mr. Michell was showing "too much zeal" in his hostility to Aleko Pasha, for whose difficult position he did not show sufficient consideration. He had, in fact, placed himself in open opposition to the Governor-General, and this had caused a very unfavourable impression in the province. M. Onou especially dwelt upon the manner in which, he said, Mr. Michell had persisted in calling public attention to the fact that Aleko Pasha had not received from the Sultan the "Grand Cordon" of the "Osmaniyeh," as the population of the province had been induced to believe that he had. By doing this he was discrediting the Governor-General.

I replied that Mr. Michell was, I had every reason to think, only doing his duty, and that if he found himself unfortunately in opposition to Aleko Pasha, it was because that duty required of him, as Her Majesty's Consul-General and one of the Commissioners for the elaboration of the Organic Statute, to uphold the Treaty of Berlin and to insist upon the execution of the new Constitution whenever either of them was violated, which unfortunately was too frequently the case. As regards the contradiction to the report circulated—there was every reason to believe by Aleko Pasha himself—and to the statement published in the Government organ, the "Maritza," that he had received the "Omsaniyeh" from the Sultan, I was as much responsible for it as Mr. Michell, as I had informed him of His Majesty's denial to me that he had conferred any such distinction upon his Excellency. His Majesty himself was extremely desirous that the report should be contradicted, because, if it were not, it would lead to the belief that he approved of the conduct of Aleko Pasha, the violation of the Treaty of Berlin and of the Constitution, and the ill-treatment of his Mussulman subjects in Eastern Roumelia. If the public contradiction of the report, attributed to Mr. Michell, had offended the dignity of Aleko Pasha, he had only himself to thank for it.

M. Onou replied that he must admit that Aleko Pasha had committed "une indiscrétion" in allowing it to be stated that he had received the "Osmaniyeh" when it had not been conferred upon him; but still it was to be regretted that Mr. Michell had made use of the fact to discredit the Governor-General in the eyes of the population. He then complained that Mr. Michell had given his authority to a statement that the funds voted by the Eastern Roumelian Chambers for the relief of the distressed inhabitants of the province had been exclusively devoted to the Bulgarians. This, he declared, was very unjust to Aleko Pasha's Government, and was calculated to make an unfavourable impression abroad with respect to it. I said that I understood that, although the whole of those funds may not have been applied to the relief of the Bulgarians, they had received even more than the lion's share of them. This was all, as far as I know, that Mr. Michell had pointed out, and I thought that he was quite right in doing so, and in protesting against what, if the facts alleged were true, seemed to be an act of flagrant injustice.

M. Onou admitted that the Bulgarians might, not unnaturally, be more favoured in the distribution of these funds than the Mussulmans, but he was convinced that it was not to the extent pretended by Mr. Michell. He did not wish, however, he said,

to make any formal or official complaint against Her Majesty's Consul-General, but merely to call his proceedings to my attention in a friendly and "officious" manner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 32.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 115.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 25, 1880.*

M. CONDOURIOTIS called upon me to-day to tell me that he had been instructed by his Government to ask me to convey to Mr. Michell their best thanks for the prompt and energetic manner in which he had interfered to compel the restoration to the Greeks of Philippopoli of the church forcibly taken from them by the Bulgarians. Had it not been for the action of Mr. Michell, he said, this church would have probably remained in the hands of the Bulgarians. The Greek Government further desired to express their high satisfaction with the just and impartial manner in which he performed his duty as Her Majesty's Consul-General and Commissioner in protecting and defending the rights of the Greek and other nationalities, of which the Bulgarians were attempting to deprive them. My Hellenic colleague begged me to inform Her Majesty's Government, as well as Mr. Michell, of the communication which he had been directed to make to me, which I promised to do.

M. Condouriotis asked me whether I could not prevail upon the Porte to call upon the Eastern Roumelian Government to punish those who had been guilty of the attack upon, and seizure of, the Greek church; but I could not hold out any hope to him that representations from me would have the effect of inducing the Turkish Government to take any steps in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 33.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 117. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 25, 1880.*

M. DE KOSJEK, the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires, called upon me to-day to show me a telegram that he had received from Baron de Haymerle, and which he had just communicated to the Prime Minister and Sawas Pasha. This note was worded in somewhat angry terms. It asked for an explanation of the publication in a Turkish newspaper, the "Vakit," of the Protocols of the negotiations between Count Zichy and the Porte, which preceded the signature of the Convention for the Austro-Hungarian occupation of the Province of Novi-Bazar. It pointed out that official documents of this nature could not be made public without the consent of both the parties to them, and that the consent of Austria had not been asked or obtained in this instance. It then commented upon the proofs recently given by the Porte of an unfriendly feeling towards Austria, and especially alluded to the opposition raised in the autumn to the appearance of the Austro-Hungarian fleet at Salonica, to the scant courtesy and attention shown to Count Zichy when he took his departure from Constantinople, and to some insulting articles against Austria which have appeared of late in the "Terdjimani Hakikat" the well-known organ of the Palace. It ended by asking a categorical explanation of the views and objects of the Porte, and whether it intended or not to retain the friendship of an ally which had given it so many proofs of an earnest desire to serve it.

M. Kosjek said that both Said and Sawas Pashas received this communication with feelings of surprise and alarm. The Prime Minister began by declaring that he was not responsible for the publication of the Protocols. On being asked who was responsible, he hesitated to give an answer. M. Kosjek then demanded, I understood him to say, that Said Pasha should state in writing that he had no responsibility in the matter, and should offer at the same time an apology for the appearance of the Protocol in the columns of a newspaper; and should undertake to discover the person who had

communicated them to the journal in question, and to punish him. This his Highness declined to do, and after a somewhat stormy discussion, M. Kosjek left him, giving him twenty-four hours to agree to the insertion of an official notice in the Turkish newspapers, declaring that the Porte was not responsible for the publication of the Protocols inserted in the "Vakit," and that they are apocryphal. He was promised an answer within the time.

It was quite evident, M. Kosjek said, that the Protocols had been given to the "Vakit" by some one connected with the Palace, and no doubt by the order of the Sultan himself. It had been done with the intention, he thought, of exciting public opinion against Austria for some reason or another, and must be taken as indicating a change of policy on the part of the Porte with regard to her. He had charged both Said and Sawas Pashas with the design, and had reminded them that whilst the "Terdjimani Hakikat" was encouraged to publish articles full of calumnies and misstatements against the Austrian rule in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Austrian Government, out of consideration for Turkey and of a desire to avoid causing her injury, had abstained from publishing the Reports of its Consuls in her European provinces, which described a state of things in them that could not fail, if publicly known, to create a general feeling of indignation against her in Europe.

M. Kosjek added that the publication of the Protocols, which Count Andrassy for various reasons had refused to publish, would cause most serious inconvenience to Baron Haymerle, as it would give rise to discussion in the Chambers in Austria and Hungary, and to attacks upon the Government which under present circumstances it would be difficult to meet. Baron Haymerle was consequently excessively annoyed and indignant at this flagrant breach of good faith on the part of the Porte, which he attributed to a desire on its part to fix a quarrel upon Austria. I have every reason to believe that its proceedings can only be explained by the change of policy which the Sultan appears to have made under the influence of France and Russia, and which is decidedly hostile to England and Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 34.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 118. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 26, 1880.*

I AM informed, on authority upon which I can rely, that Mahmoud Nedim Pasha was the only one of the Ministers who refused to place his seal to the "Mazbata" of the Council approving the Slave Trade Convention, and sent to the Sultan for his "Iradé." I also learn, but on less trustworthy authority, that he suggested the alteration and addition to the Convention which were insisted upon by His Majesty at the last moment, and after the Convention was written out for signature. What his Highness' motives were in taking this course I have been unable to ascertain. They may have been the desire to embarrass his rival, the Prime Minister, and to prevent him from obtaining the credit of concluding so important an international arrangement, and from giving a proof of a desire to stand well with England, or he may have entertained conscientious scruples as a Mussulman to some of the provisions of the instrument.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 35.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 120. Confidential.)
My Lord. *Constantinople, January 26, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul-General Blunt, containing an extract from a private letter from Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha relative to Albanian affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 35.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Secret.)
Sir, *Salonica, January* 17, 1880.

WITH reference to my preceding despatch on the subject of Albanian affairs, I have this day read a letter, dated the 14th instant, from Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha, containing the following paragraph :—

"Les Albanais n'écoutent jamais aucun conseil ; ils ont même décidé entre eux de se défendre si le Gouvernement emploiera la force pour les mettre à la raison. J'espère toujours à réussir, mais lentement. Mr. Blunt est libre d'en donner connaissance à Sir Layard, mais toujours en secret. Je ne désire pas rester ici mais . . . . . que faire ?"

The rest of the letter refers to his family and disposition of his property under certain contingencies, and is written in very despondent terms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 36.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 5.)

(No. 122.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 26, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of a petition which has been addressed to me by a number of persons styling themselves the "Inhabitants of the Province of Janina," protesting against the appointment of a Local Commission for the Organic Statute of the Turkish provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Petition from the Inhabitants of Janina.

(Traduction.)
Excellence,

AUTREFOIS aussi les habitants de ces parties de l'Epire, qui sont destinées à être annexées au Royaume de Grèce, d'après le Traité de Berlin, manifestèrent leurs constantes opinions par rapport à leur avenir politique en s'adressant trois fois déjà aux Grandes Puissances, une fois par pétition et une fois par délégués, et en fournissant des preuves évidentes par rapport à leur droit à l'émancipation politique.

A présent, lorsque les Délégués de la Grèce à Constantinople ont mis en évidence l'incontestable justification des nouvelles frontières désignées par les Puissances, lorsque nous attendions tous la reconnaissance du droit de notre connexion à la Grèce, notre mère, soit de la part de la Porte soit de la part des Puissances, lorsque le malaise politique et social de ce pays arrivant à son *nec plus ultra* a besoin d'un remède viril, à savoir, son annexion à une nation qui participe à la civilisation Européenne, nous apprenons à notre grande surprise qu'on envoie de Constantinople à notre pays un faisceau de nouvelles lois réformatrices dont jusqu'à présent la province Ottomane n'a joui que sur le papier. Ce n'est pas par tels palliatifs, Excellence, que la maladie sociale de ce pays sera jamais guérie. On ne fera que multiplier les difficultés qui existent pour la bonne administration des habitants qui sont si cruellement privés des bienfaits de la liberté.

C'est pourquoi nous protestons de la manière la plus énergique devant les Grandes Puissances contre toutes idées qui pourraient être probablement soutenues par la Porte comme quoi les habitants de ce pays manifestent par leur silence leur adhésion à ces réformes, se contentant uniquement d'un pareil degré d'autonomie, et ce n'est non plus possible que ce soit une preuve des opinions politiques le fait que quelques-uns peut-être de nos concitoyens cédant à une grande pression Gouvernementale soit réduite à participer sans le vouloir à la Commission Locale qui sera instituée pour les susdites réformes.

En priant votre Excellence de transmettre au Gouvernement que vous représentez auprès de la Sublime Porte notre présente protestation, nous avons, &c.

Le 5 Décembre, 1879.

(Signé) Les habitants de la Province de Janina,
(Suivent les signatures.)

Pour légalisation des signatures ci-dessus :
Les représentants des quartiers.
(Suivent les sceaux de ces représentants.)

No. 37.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 5.)

(No. 123.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 26, 1880.

THE "Commercial Advertiser"—the name under which the "Levant Herald," since its suspension some time ago, has appeared—has been summarily suppressed for publishing the leading article which I inclose. It must be admitted that the language in which this article is couched is rather strong, and the Sultan, to whom it was, it appears, communicated, considered it offensive to his person and dignity. It is not, however, more disrespectful to His Majesty than the articles which have been published, with His Majesty's sanction, in Turkish papers, are disrespectful to the Queen's Ambassador. Nor has anything appeared in the "Commercial Advertiser" so dangerous and so insolent and offensive to Turkey as the "Turdjimani Hakikat," the Palace organ, has been permitted to publish against England. I have not failed to point this out to Sawas Pasha, when speaking to him on the subject of the suppression of the "Commercial Advertiser," and to remind his Excellency that the many promises, spontaneously given to me by the Prime Minister and by himself, that the disgraceful attacks upon a friendly Power and ally, which are still appearing in the "Turdjimani Hakikat," should no longer be permitted, have been utterly disregarded. I added that, as I made it a rule not to interfere with the press, I did not address my observations to him officially, but in a friendly spirit, in order that he might be warned of the grave consequences which must inevitably ensue when a paper, known to be the organ of the Palace, if not of the Sultan himself, and with which the Ministers were compelled to admit their inability to interfere, publicly professed and advocated, in offensive and insulting terms, a policy hostile to England.

I inclose the Decree by which the "Commercial Advertiser" is suppressed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 37.

Extract from the "Commercial Advertiser" of January 23, 1880.

THE "HAKIKAT" ON DECORATIONS.—The "Hakikat" is perfectly in the right in affirming, in the article summarized in another column, that the bestowal of honorific rewards belongs to the Sovereign. He is equally in the wrong when he says that no one has the right to remark upon the bestowal of such awards. He is Orientally mendacious when he says that foreign Governments have interfered in delicate questions of this nature.

No foreign Representative, no foreign journal, has ever questioned the right of the Ottoman Sovereign in this respect, and a due regard of truth would have prevented the "Hakikat" from alleging that there had ever been any foreign meddling in such matters. The Turkish honorific Orders belong to the Sultan. He can give them to whom he pleases, when he pleases, and for whatever reason he pleases. It greatly concerns a Sovereign to bestow his decorations advisedly ; for, if they are ill bestowed, the value of the reward is at once depreciated, and it comes to be held cheap in the public eye. Just as a trader will abstain from depreciating his own wares, because, by so doing, he reduces his capital, so a Sovereign will abstain from the injudicious bestowal of his Orders, because by so doing he lessens the power

of recompense at his command. But whether he takes account of this fact or not, he is still absolute master of his own decorations. He may be so chary of their bestowal that the best men in the universe would give years of labour to deserve them; or so lavish of them that no man of mark would care to have them; or so perverse in the choice of objects for their bestowal that men of a certain stamp would not feel honoured by receiving them.

When an Eastern potentate, in a merry mood, once bestowed a Grand Cordon and the title of "Ghazi" on a game-cock of signal valour, he did what he had an undoubted right to do. It was his concern and no one else's, so far as regards the act itself; and if he further had desired to decorate his walking-stick or his fiddle he would have been perfectly free to follow the bent of his inclination. The act might have exalted or depreciated the value of the Order, but that would have been matter for the exclusive consideration of the Sovereign who held the Order in his gift. If, however, the cock, instead of having vanquished a rival bird, had pecked out the eye of the Chinese Ambassador, the decoration of the bird immediately after so reprehensible an act, even if not on account of that act, would have given rise to remark both in diplomatic and press circles. The right of conferring the decoration would have been undoubted; but as soon as the right was exercised the act would have become public property, and the circumstances under which it was performed a fit topic for comment and criticism. The cock and his friends would have been pleased, but the Chinese Ambassador and his friends would have been dissatisfied.

Again, let us suppose, for the sake of argument, that some Monarch had a fancy for decorating walking-sticks, and that he had conferred the Second Class of the Order of the Star of Utopia on a stout oak staff that had saved him from a fall in some slippery promenade. Admitting the fitness of decorating walking-sticks, nothing could, in such case, be said against the choice of the particular stick. But, supposing a servant had broken the head of one of his best friends with some ill-conditioned bludgeon, and that implement were forthwith invested with the Grand Cordon of the Star of Utopia, the friend with the broken head would not look upon the act as a proof of sympathy, and he would have every reason to complain, although the right of the supposititious Monarch was as indisputable in the one case as in the other. Parable apart, the matter is simple enough. The conferring of a decoration is an act, and, like every other public act, it is a fit subject for comment and criticism. The fact that it is the act of the Sovereign of Turkey no more protects it from criticism than if it were the act of the Emperor of Russia, or of the Emperor of Austria, or of the Queen of England.

A literary man like the editor of the semi-official Turkish paper ought to have heard before now something about "the fierce light that beats upon a throne," and ought also to know that the higher the position of the agent, the greater the significance of the act, and, consequently, the more general the invitation to criticism. Nine hundred and ninety-nine Orders may be given away without suggesting comment or criticism, and, as a matter of fact, they are so given away in silence. The time and circumstance of the granting of the thousandth Order may give a real or apparent significance to its bestowal which will set all the forces of criticism in action. When such a case arises, no matter who the Sovereign may be, the criticism will follow; and a case of that kind having arisen, it is as puerile as it is dishonest on the part of the Turkish semi-official organ to denounce such criticism as "foreign meddling." Every Sovereign is supposed to know his own business, and to have well weighed his own acts. He has presumably considered the *pro* and the *contra*, and his reputation is staked on the action resulting from the balance he has struck between the two. Even if his action has not satisfied a conviction, it has at least gratified an impulse, and criticism cannot in either case undo the action. If it tarnish either the satisfaction or the gratification, then it implies that the Sovereign was not quite sure of his own act, and thinks he might have done better, which is an indication of weakness and indecision.

Now, it is quite evident that Sultan Abdul Hamid is a man who knows his own mind; he follows a line of his own. It may be a good line or it may be a bad line, or it may be partly good and partly bad. Anyhow, it is Abdul Hamid's line, and he is not a man to complain because all the world does not think precisely as he does. The whine of the "Hakikat," therefore, in the present occasion, is very infelicitous, more especially when his official relations are taken into account.

The time and circumstance of Hafiz Pasha's decoration were very peculiar, so much so that every journal in Europe will comment upon the fact, more especially as it is obvious that the choice of season was not fortuitous. The Sultan evidently desired to

teach some lesson, or to illustrate some principle by the act, and those whom it concerns will reason upon the matter until they arrive at a conclusion. The "Hakikat," then, pays a very equivocal compliment to his Sovereign's perspicacity in making it appear that the Sultan had not foreseen all this. We do the Sultan the justice to believe that he knew full well what he was about when he decorated Hafiz Pasha, that he had a special purpose in conferring the decoration, and that he was prescient enough to foresee, and courageous enough to brave, the adverse criticism which he knew the act was calculated to provoke.

Inclosure 2 in No. 37.

Decree suppressing the "Commercial Advertiser."

ATTENDU que le "Moniteur du Commerce," malgré les avertissements tant verbaux qu'écrits, n'a pas cessé de tenir un langage hostile contre le Gouvernement Impérial;

Attendu que le dit journal, dans ses derniers numéros, en dépassant toutes les bornes, s'est permis d'attaquer directement les prérogatives souveraines;

Attendu qu'aucun Gouvernement ne peut permettre à la presse, relevant de son autorité, la perpétration de pareils écarts de langage poussés jusqu'à la licence.

Conformément à l'ordre supérieur, le "Moniteur du Commerce" est supprimé à partir d'aujourd'hui.

La présente notification est donnée à M. D. Bellis, gérant-responsable du dit journal.

Le $\frac{12}{24}$ *Janvier*, 1880.

Le Directeur de la Presse,
(Signé) MEHEMED.

No. 38.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February 5.*)

(No. 125.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 27, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a part of a letter addressed by the Metropolitan of Yeni Schir to the Œcumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, which his Highness has communicated to me, respecting the condition of Christians in Thessaly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 38.

The Metropolitan of Yeni Lebia to the Œcumenical Patriarch.

(Traduction.)
(Extrait.) *Le 2 Janvier*, 1880.

C'EST avec une grande douleur que je viens par cette lettre annoncer à votre Sainteté qu'outre la disette, dont tous les habitants de Thessalie souffrent cette année, ils éprouvent les suites de la rigueur que le Gouvernement exerce pour la perception des arrérages des impôts des années précédentes; pendant les dernières fêtes ils ont subi une telle oppression que plus de cent personnes sont contraintes de venir d'Agraphe et d'Almyzas pour implorer pitié. Le Gouvernement Impérial quoiqu'auparavant il ait remis les droits d'une année aux habitants des lieux qui sont détruits par la guerre, maintenant fait percevoir les droits et demande les dîmes des graines pillées par les révolutionnaires. J'ai plus d'une fois prié le Gouvernement pour se montrer plus clément dans la perception, et celui-ci a donné ordre que ces arrérages soient perçues à diverses reprises; mais après quelques jours des soldats furent expédiés aux villages; au logement d'un paysan qui ne doit que 30 ou 40 piastres entre une dizaine de cavaliers qui, après la perception de la

somme due, ne le quittent avant de se raturer [*sic*], et de repaître leurs bestiaux de sorte que le paysan, après avoir payé ce qu'il doit, il éprouve un dommage deux fois plus grand.

En un mot, l'état des Chrétiens de Thessalie est déplorable. Ce qu'il y a de plus fâcheux, c'est que la loi militaire est encore en vigueur, tandis qu'il n'y a plus ici ni révolutionnaires, ni brigands. Si donc votre Sérénissime n'intercède pas près l'auguste Gouvernement pour que les habitants soient un peu soulagés de ces maux, je ne sais pas ce qui peut arriver le printemps prochain. Ma plume est trop faible pour dépeindre en détail les maux et les souffrances des Chrétiens.

En attendant l'effet agréable de sa sollicitude paternelle, je suis, &c.

No. 39.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 126.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 27, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the substance of an article published in the "Terdjoumani Hakikat" relating to the alleged designs of England to obtain a port at the mouth of the Euphrates, and to place a fleet of ships-of-war upon that river and the Tigris.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 39.

Extract from the "Stamboul" of January 26, 1880.

LE "Hakikat" reproduit le passage d'une correspondance adressée de Bagdad à la "Neue Freie Presse," dans laquelle il est dit que la Compagnie Anglo-Indienne avait envoyé quelques ingénieurs pour acheter des terrains à Bassorah et aux environs, et que le Gouvernement Anglais, ayant l'intention de créer un port de débarquement pour sa marine de guerre aux embouchures du Tigre, la dite Compagnie voulait former sur ce point une colonie commerciale.

Le journal Turc, après avoir reproduit ces nouvelles, ajoute que les Anglais convoitent depuis longtemps ce point qui est le plus important et constitue le plus beau port de la Mer d'Oman, à l'embouchure d'un fleuve navigable tel que le Tigre. De plus, leur prise de possession, il y a quelques années, de l'Ile de Piré, située dans ce golfe, justifie leurs intentions de vouloir établir sur ce point important leur seconde base d'opérations.

Dans l'éventualité de la création du chemin de fer de l'Euphrate, le railway conduisant du Golfe d'Alexandrette jusqu'à Bassorah étant beaucoup plus avantageux à l'Angleterre pour ses transports aux Indes, que la voie de la Mer Rouge, et Bassorah, l'extrême point de cette voie ferrée, acquérant ainsi une grande importance aux yeux des Anglais, il ne faut pas beaucoup s'étonner de leur entreprise d'aujourd'hui.

D'après le bruit répandu à Bagdad, les Anglais auraient l'intention de maintenir une flotte sur le Tigre, et étaient sur le point d'ajouter de nouvelles pièces à un navire de guerre qu'ils ont sur ce fleuve.

Le "Hakikat," après avoir hésité sur ces inductions qui lui sont propres, ne veut pas ajouter trop de foi à ce bruit, et dit que le Gouvernement Impérial, dans un endroit qui lui appartient légitimement et où l'intervention étrangère n'a rien à faire, ne voudra pas permettre l'existence d'une flotte Anglaise, ni la construction d'un port pour navires de guerre.

No. 40.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 131.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 28, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 117 of the 25th instant, I have the honour to state that the demand of the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires has been, to a

certain extent, complied with, and that a notice has been issued by the "Bureau de la Presse" to the effect that newspapers published in Turkey are requested not to reproduce from the "Vakit" the Protocols preceding the conclusion of the Convention for the occupation of Novi-Bazar, as the translation of those documents given by that journal is inaccurate, and its publication was not authorized by the Government. I learn on good authority that the Turkish text of the documents, as published, was given by the Porte to the editor of the "Vakit."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 41.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 133. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, January 28, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a letter addressed to me by the Reverend Charles Hanson, inclosing the project for an Agricultural Bank, which he and Mr. Ede, an English lawyer in practice here, have submitted to the Porte, and which, they tell me, they have reason to hope will be accepted.

Such an institution would be of great value to the Mussulman refugees, and to Mussulmans who have been deprived of their property by the Bulgarians, or who are unable to sell it or to receive their rents. I trust, therefore, that this project, or one having a similar object, will be put into execution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 41.

Mr. Hanson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Galatz, January 20, 1880.*

ON the 22nd December I had the honour of submitting to your Excellency the proposals of Mr. Edward Ede and myself to the Turkish Government for an Agricultural Bank for the assistance of Turkish refugees.

As you then expressed such kind interest in the undertaking, and desired me to let you know any further steps that were taken in the matter, I venture to wait on your Excellency now with the inclosed copy of the third and last modification of the project submitted by us to the Turkish Government.

I am happy to be able to add that, being yesterday at Stamboul, I was assured by his Excellency the Minister of Public Works that this project has been definitely accepted by the Cabinet, and has been passed to the Department, in which it is put in form for presentation to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, with recommendation of the necessary high authorities for its acceptance and ratification by Imperial Firman.

The only alteration made in the proposals, copy of which I now lay before your Excellency, is the omission of the 2nd clause of the 4th Article, relating to the collection of tithes and taxes by the Bank for account of the Government; this was apparently done in consequence of its probably militating against the charter of the Imperial Ottoman Bank. The eliminated clause is in brackets in the copy alluded to.

As the high-class refugees are very anxious for the establishment of such a bank, and are themselves pushing the matter very vigorously, I am not without hope that I may be able very shortly to inform your Excellency of the reception of a Provisional Firman for this object.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES C. HANSON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 41.

Project of Messrs. C. S. Hanson and Co. to found an Agricultural Bank.

ARTICLE 1er. Le Gouvernement Ottoman autorise MM. Charles Hanson et Edward Ede de former une Banque Agricole, au capital de 1,000,000*l.* sterling.

Art. 2. La Banque prendra le nom de "Banque Agricole Ottomane," et la durée de la concession sera de cinquante ans.

Art. 3. Le but de la Banque sera :—

(*a.*) Prêter de l'argent aux cultivateurs et propriétaires sur leurs terres, propriétés, biens-fonds, récoltes, et autres biens mobiliers.

(*b.*) Acheter à commission, pour les cultivateurs qui le demanderaient, des machines pour moissonner et battre en grange, et tous autres outils et instruments aratoires, ainsi que des semences et animaux.

(*c.*) Vendre, en cas de besoin, les produits des cultivateurs pour leur compte, et moyennant une commission.

La Banque n'aura pas le droit d'acheter et vendre, pour son propre compte, les produits qui lui seraient consignés, pour vendre à commission.

Art 4. La Banque pourra recevoir de l'argent en dépôt, avec ou sans intérêt, et en comptes-courants.

[La Banque, dans le but de faciliter la perception des revenus de l'Etat, pourra percevoir pour le compte du Fisc, si le Gouvernement le désirerait, les dîmes et autres taxes et impôts agricoles, et faire les avances là-dessus.]*

Elle aura la faculté de faire toutes autres opérations qui seraient de nature à faciliter le développement de l'agriculture, qui est le but de la création de la Banque.

Art. 5. Le chiffre des avances à faire sera fixé, de gré à gré, entre la Banque et les emprunteurs, et l'estimation de la valeur du gage appartiendra exclusivement à la Banque.

Art. 6. L'intérêt annuel des avances à faire sur gage pourra être perçu par anticipation, et le taux de l'intérêt ne dépassera pas 10 pour cent par an.

Art 7. La Banque ne pourra réclamer le remboursement du capital par lui avancé aux emprunteurs avant quinze ans, pourvu que ceux-ci en paient l'intérêt ponctuellement tous les ans. Toutefois, il serait accordé aux emprunteurs un délai (de grâce) de deux ans pour payer les intérêts, à partir de l'expiration de la première année, dont l'intérêt aurait été perçu par anticipation. Dans ce cas, la Banque aurait le droit de percevoir 11 pour cent d'intérêt pour la première année de ce délai de deux ans, et 12 pour cent pour la seconde.

Toutefois, ceux qui abandonneraient leurs terres, et négligeraient de les cultiver, après avoir emprunté l'argent, ne pourraient pas jouir du susdit délai de deux ans, et la Banque aurait le droit de vendre leur propriété durant la deuxième année.

Art. 8. La Banque aurait le droit de vendre les gages directement, et sans qu'il soit nécessaire d'avoir recours à aucun Tribunal, ni d'intenter un procès, dans le cas où les emprunteurs ne paieraient pas les sommes empruntées, ou les intérêts, dans le délai de trois ans à partir de la date de l'emprunt, ainsi qu'il est indiqué dans l'Article précédent.

Toutefois, cette vente sera faite aux enchères publiques, et suivant le mode indiqué dans le cahier des charges. Si, par hasard, l'emprunteur désirait faire vendre sa propriété sans mise aux enchères, la Banque pourra agir en conformité de son désir. La Banque aura le droit d'acheter, pour son propre compte, les gages mis aux enchères, et ce par le consentment du propriétaire, mais elle ne pourrait pas les garder en sa possession plus de trois ans.

Art. 9. En tout cas, l'emprunteur aura le droit de réclamer, avant le délai susmentionné, la rétrocession de son gage, lorsqu'il aura payé entièrement le capital, avec l'intérêt, soit par un seul paiement, soit par paiements partiels.

Art. 10. Les propriétés, terres, biens-fonds, et autres, à donner en gage, seront transférés au nom du Directeur de la Banque. Si les lois actuellement en vigueur ne permettraient pas le transfert des biens à donner en gage au nom de la Banque, le Gouvernement accorderait une autorisation spéciale à cet effet.

Art. 11. La Banque ne sera point obligée de prêter au delà du trois quarts de son capital. Toutefois il lui sera facultative de le faire si elle le trouverait à propos.

Art. 12. Durant les premières vingt-cinq années de la concession il ne serait perçu aucun droit de transfert ou autres frais, ni pour le transfert des propriétés, terres, et autres transférés à la Banque à titre de gage, ni pour le rétransfert aux propriétaires, ni pour la revente et retransfert aux tiers par la Banque, dans le cas où elle en deviendrait acquéreur, ainsi qu'il est dit dans l'Article 6. Cette exemption cesserait après l'expiration de ces premières vingt-cinq années. Après cette époque on se conformera aux lois de l'Empire.

Art. 13. L'exemption dont il est parlé dans l'Article précédent sera exclusivement

* Struck out by the Government.

accordée à cette Banque, et ne pourra être accordée à aucun autre établissement de Banque de cette nature pour les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe.

Art 14. Cette Banque doit être formée dans quatre mois à partir de la remise du Firman de Concession. Elle sera soumise aux lois de l'Empire Ottoman.

Art. 15. Le siége principal de la Banque sera à Constantinople ou à Andrinople. Elle établira des succursales dans les endroits nécessaires en Roumélie. Elle aura aussi une succursale à Londres ou à Paris.

Art. 16. Le cahier des charges, rédigé d'après les principes ci-dessus, devra être présenté au Gouvernement pour être examiné et approuvé, dans le délai de deux mois à partir du jour où la formation de la Banque serait déclarée et prouvée.

Art. 17. Dans le cas où la Banque ne serait pas formée dans le délai de quatre mois, mentionné dans l'Article 14, la présente Convention sera considérée comme nulle et non-avenue.

Constantinople, le 26 *Décembre*, 1879 (N.S.).

No. 42.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 5.)

(No. 134. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January* 28, 1880.

WITH reference to my Confidential despatch of the 26th instant, wishing to ascertain the motives of Mahmoud Nedim Pasha for his alleged refusal to affix his seal to the "Mazbata" of the Council of Ministers recommending to the Sultan the issue of his "Tradé" approving the Slave Trade Convention, I sent to his Highness to ask for an explanation on the subject.

His Highness has, in reply, transmitted to me the inclosed declaration, to which he has placed his seal, and by which it would appear that his colleagues withheld from him the "Mazbata." Sawas Pasha himself showed it to Sir A. Sandison without his Highness' seal, in order to convince me that Mahmoud Nedim Pasha, although professing to be friendly to England, was secretly hostile to her, and was opposing her in everything. I did not send to his Highness to complain of his not having approved of the Convention. I said that if he had conscientious scruples against any of its provisions I respected them, but should be glad to do my best to remove them by giving him any explanations that he might require.

I am very glad that this disgraceful intrigue has been unmasked. I have now positive proof of the untrustworthiness of the men who are at the head of affairs, and of the necessity for me to be on my guard against them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 42.

Declaration by Mahmoud Nedim Pasha.

D'APRÈS ce qu'on a rapporté à l'Ambassade d'Angleterre, Mahmoud Nedim Pacha n'aurait ni approuvé ni signé le Rapport Ministériel concernant la Convention de l'abolition de la Traite des Nègres.

Cette assertion est une calomnie et un mensonge, attendu que l'approbation donnée par Mahmoud Nedim Pacha à la dite Convention est consignée dans le Protocole des séances du Conseil des Ministres.

Le dit Rapport relatif à la Convention a été cacheté et immédiatement soumis à la sanction Impériale dans la journée du Dimanche, le 18 Janvier (N.S.), et ce jour-là Mahmoud Pacha ne se trouvait pas à la Sublime Porte pour cause d'indisposition. Un peu plus tard Mahmoud Pacha a demandé le dit Rapport pour y apposer son cachet et on ne le lui a pas montré. Il a continué à le redemander avec instance, et on en a toujours remis la présentation du jour au lendemain en profitant en même temps de l'occasion pour montrer le même Rapport à l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique, et lui faire voir, dans le but de renforcer la calomnie, que le dit Rapport ne portait pas le cachet du Pacha.

Néanmoins, Mahmoud Nedim Pacha n'a point gardé le silence. Il a exigé

impérieusement de voir le Rapport en question—Rapport qui lui a été enfin présenté il y a trois jours, et auquel il a apposé son cachet.

Et pour donner un démenti à l'assertion mensongère sus-enoncée, Mahmoud Nedim Pacha a signé et délivré la présente Déclaration.

(L.S.)

Constantinople, Mardi, le $\frac{15}{27}$ Janvier, 1880.

No. 43.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 137.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 28*, 1880.

WITH reference to a letter which a Mr. Langdon, residing at Serres, addressed on the 31st October last to Mr. Consul-General Blunt, copy of which that gentleman informs me, in a despatch dated the 5th November last, he sent to your Lordship, respecting the case of a Christian who succumbed to the flogging inflicted on him by the military Pasha at Serres, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I addressed a strong representation on the subject to the Sublime Porte.

I have received a *note verbale* in reply, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, informing me that Hadji Hussein Pasha, the functionary in question, is to be tried by court-martial for his conduct during the late war, and that he will be put on his trial at the same time for the acts of which he is accused at Serres.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 43.

Note Verbale.

Sublime Porte, le 27 Janvier, 1880.

LE Ministère des Affaires Etrangères a reçu et communiqué au Département de la Guerre la note verbale que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique a bien voulu lui adresser le 8 Novembre dernier, relativement à la conduite de Hadji Hussein Pacha, Commandant de Serrès.

Il résulte de la réponse de son Excellence Ghazi Osman Pacha que Hadji Hussein Pacha, qui a été traduit devant la Cour Martiale pour répondre de son action militaire pendant la dernière guerre, sera mis également en accusation pour les faits qu'on lui impute à Serrès.

Le Ministère Impérial se réserve à faire connaître à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique le résultat du jugement de ce Général.

No. 44.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 138.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, January 28*, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls at Adrianople, Prevesa, and Volo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 44.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, January 17*, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Colonel Atmi Bey, of the local gendarmerie, with a squadron of cavalry, left Adrianople this morning for Tehorlou, in consequence of an incident which threatened to produce serious troubles.

It appears that, on the 1st instant, two Mussulman inhabitants of Tehorlou, notorious bad characters, named Hadji Hassan Indricoglou and Hassan Teholakoglou, entered a coffee-house where two Christian officials were sitting and assaulted the latter with sticks, beating them so severely as to endanger their lives.

The perpetrators of this outrage were not arrested at the time, owing, it is supposed, to the protection of three of the leading Beys of Tehorlou, named Senoglou Ahmet Agha, Guendjoglou Ahmet Effendi, and Osman Bey, who command considerable influence at the Porte. Indricoglou and Teholakoglou went about the town boasting of their achievement, and by the impunity allowed them encouraging the fanatical portion of the Mussulman population to insult the Christians and threaten a massacre of the Ghiaours.

The bulk of the Christian population were cowed by these menaces, but a few, more spirited than the rest, publicly declared that they would complain to the Governor-General, and, if his Excellency did not interfere, would "appeal to the European Powers."

These counter threats only served to exasperate still further the Mussulman agitators, and at last the Christian primates were compelled to telegraph to Réouf Pasha for protection. His Excellency at once telegraphed orders to Rodosto and Baba-Eski for reinforcements of police to be sent to Tehorlou; and in consequence of a further written petition which he received yesterday from the Christians of that place, ordered thither the force of cavalry which left Adrianople this morning.

In the meantime, his Excellency informs me that one of the aggressors of the Christian functionaries of Tehorlou has already been arrested by the police sent from Baba-Eski, and that he has every reason to hope that order will be speedily restored.

Indricoglou and Teholakoglou were exiled from Tehorlou some months ago by the late Governor, Mehmet Pasha, but they had been suffered to return by his successor, at the instigation of the local Beys above named.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 44.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, January 23*, 1880.

I BEG to inclose, for your Excellency's information, a translation of the instructions which the Porte has at last sent for the guidance of the Commission, instituted by Réouf Pasha, for the amicable settlement of the pending war claims of Mussulmans against Christians.

The Commission in question ceased to assemble in the beginning of December, owing to the remonstrances of the Porte, which, on the representations of the Adrianople Beys exiled by Réouf Pasha, had insisted that the Mussulman claims should be examined judicially. The Porte seems now to have realized the inexpediency of that course, and the superior wisdom of that originally adopted by the Governor-General.

The terms of the present instructions, of which the inclosed translation has been made by Wassa Effendi, are, however, curiously loose and even contradictory.

Thus, after laying down, as in Article 5, that the Christians must in certain cases "be forced to restore" the Mussulman property now in their possession, the instructions wind up by expressly stating that the action of the Commission must be confined within the "limits of conciliation." Article 7, which provides that property seized by the Russians and now in the possession of Christian inhabitants of the province cannot be reclaimed, is at variance with Article 5, which requires such property to be restored to its original owners.

The general tenour of the instructions is, however, in agreement with the views

and proposals which Réouf Pasha has been urging on the Porte for months past, and which the Crown lawyers at Constantinople appear to have deemed equitable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 44.

Instructions given by the Sublime Porte to the Claims Commission.

ARTICLE 1er. Cette Commission est instituée pour faire droit aux pétitions et aux demandes qui se réfèrent aux faits qui ont eu lieu pendant la guerre et l'occupation ennemie, et avant le retour et la rentrée en fonctions des autorités Impériales. Par conséquent les enlèvements, les vols, et autres crimes et délits qui ont eu lieu après l'évacuation des Russes et la rentrée en fonctions des autorités Impériales sont du ressort des Tribunaux ordinaires.

Art. 2. Les affaires dont la Commission doit s'occuper sont de quatre catégories. La première concerne les bestiaux, effets, et autres objets que les Musulmans ont donné en dépôt aux Chrétiens, lors de leur émigration. La deuxième a trait aux bestiaux, céréales, et effets abandonnés par des Musulmans, lors de leur émigration, dans leurs maisons et fermes, et pris par des Chrétiens, de leur propre mouvement, pour garder et administrer. La troisième catégorie embrasse tout ce que, pendant la guerre et l'occupation, les Russes ont enlevé. La quatrième comprend tous les vols, enlèvements, et usurpations qui ont lieu pendant l'évacuation des Russes et avant la rentrée en fonctions des autorités Impériales Ottomanes.

Art. 3. Les questions de la première et deuxième catégories sont du ressort de la Commission. Ainsi tous bestiaux, effets, et autres que des Musulmans ont consigné à des Chrétiens, étant un dépôt entre les mains de ceux-ci, comme aussi tout ce qui a été abandonné par des Musulmans dans leurs maisons et dans leurs fermes, et qui a été pris par des Chrétiens, est une espèce de dépôt entre leurs mains; les bestiaux, effets, &c., de cette catégorie, qui se trouvent aujourd'hui encore entre les mains des Chrétiens doivent être restitués à leurs propriétaires primitifs. Seulement les Chrétiens ont le droit de réclamer le remboursement des dépenses faites par eux pour l'entretien des bestiaux; en ce cas les produits du travail de ces bestiaux, dûment calculés, doivent être déduits de la somme des dépenses.

Art. 4. Quant aux bestiaux et effets de cette catégorie qui ne se trouvent plus entre les mains des Chrétiens qui les ont reçus en dépôt et de ceux qui les ont pris de leur propre mouvement, mais qui ont été vendus illégalement; lorsque ces faits seront constatés par la Commission, il y aura lieu de faire payer aux propriétaires primitifs la contrevaleur. Mais ceux qui ont acheté ces bestiaux et ces effets, s'ils l'ont fait sans en connaître la provenance, ne doivent pas être poursuivis; dans ce cas c'est le vendeur premier qui doit être poursuivi par le propriétaire.

Art. 5. Quant aux bestiaux et effets qui ne se trouvent plus entre les mains des dépositaires ou de ceux qui les ont pris de leur propre volonté, et qui, soit par enlèvement, par pillage, ou par vol, soit par les habitants ou par les Russes, ont été vendus et sont de cette manière passés illégalement entre d'autres mains; ceux qui les ont enlevés, ou pillés, ou volés, et ceux qui, tout en sachant leur provenance, les ont achetés, doivent être forcés à les rendre. Sans vérification les plaintes ne sont pas acceptables [*sic*].

Art. 6. Si ces bestiaux et ces effets sont passés de mains en mains, et ne sont pas compris dans les faits dont il a été question, il ne peuvent former le sujet d'une réclamation.

Art. 7. Les réclamations qui concernent la troisième catégorie, à savoir, les bestiaux et effets que les Russes ont enlevés pendant la guerre et l'occupation, et qui se trouvent aujourd'hui entre d'autres mains, ne doivent pas être acceptées par la Commission.

Art. 8. Les affaires de la quatrième catégorie doivent être réglées comme il a été indiqué plus haut.

Art. 9. De même que c'est à la Commission d'apprécier la valeur des preuves produits par les réclamants pour prouver le dépôt et la consignation des bestiaux et effets, de même c'est à elle de décider de la forme, et du mode de vérifier, et de constater ces faits.

Art. 10. Les décisions de la Commission sont prises à la majorité des voix, sans que, toutefois, elle puisse sortir des limites de la conciliation.

Inclosure 4 in No. 44.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, January 25, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that eleven Mussulman peasants from the district of Slivno, in Eastern Roumelia, arrived here last night, having been expelled from the neighbouring province by the Prefect of Slivno.

They went before the Governor-General to-day, and their story, as repeated by his Excellency to my Austrian colleague this afternoon, is to the effect that a few days ago the Prefect of Slivno called them before him, and ordered them at once to sell off all their property.

On their refusing to do so, the Prefect caused them to be imprisoned for some hours, and then had them conducted over the frontier by the police, who ill-treated and beat them on the way. No time was allowed them to take leave of their families, whom they have left behind.

Réouf Pasha has telegraphed to Aleko Pasha for an explanation of this apparently arbitrary proceeding.

I shall probably be in a position to give your Excellency fuller details regarding this incident to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 44.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Sir A. H. Layard.

Volo, January 3, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE communicated to the inhabitants of Capourna your Excellency's despatch of the 28th November last, and have, in answer, been requested by them to convey to your Excellency their warmest thanks for the help you have given them towards retaining the purchase of the village from the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY J. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 6 in No. 44.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Prevesa, January 10, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 9th August last, inclosing copy and translation of a despatch from Mr. Kypriotis reporting the attack made on the village of Selini by Mustafa Pronio and his people, and which resulted in the slaying and wounding of about fifteen men, I have now the honour to report, for the information of your Excellency, that Mr. Kypriotis reports officially on the 22nd ultimo that the guilt of Mustafa Pronio having been proved at the time he was thrown into prison, but that a few days ago was suddenly, and without any trial taking place, set at liberty.

It is therefore very likely, Mr. Kypriotis goes on to say, that the return to Paramithia of Mustafa Pronio might result in the destruction of the village of Selini, and in the probable ill-treatment of the Bishop of Paramithia, who had at the time proceeded to Janina, and related all that had occurred to the Vali.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 45.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 28. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, January* 19, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that M. Schmidt has this day received a confidential communication from the German Government, urging him, in very complimentary terms, and partly at the instigation of the Austro-Hungarian Government, to withdraw his resignation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 46.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 29.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, January* 21, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 25 of the 17th instant, I have the honour to report that the Radical Bulgarian organ published in this town reflects somewhat bitterly on the fact that the Acting Russian Consul-General refused to receive a deputation of twenty notables, which waited upon him on the 16th instant in order to offer, through the Russian Consulate-General, "on the occasion of the deliverance of of the town, the expression of its deep gratitude towards the Czar-Liberator, the brave and victorious Russian army, and the fraternal Russian nation."

A Protocol recording the refusal of the Acting Consul-General to receive the deputation, and stating the object of its visit in the terms above quoted, was signed by the notables, and left at the Russian Consulate-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 47.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 30.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, January* 20, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Bulgarian Exarch left this morning for Constantinople.

His Beatitude has stated to me that his object in repairing to Constantinople for a considerable time is to negotiate a settlement of certain ecclesiastical questions connected with the Bulgarian Church in Macedonia, alleged to be at present oppressed by the Greek Patriarchate.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 48.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 31.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, January* 21, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from the "Philippoupolis," giving an account of the efforts made by the Central Refugee Committee for the relief of the Mussulman refugees.

The deputations therein mentioned were presented to Aleko Pasha by Captain Kolmo, a Russian officer in the local militia, and by the Sheikh of the Dervishes. They repeated to the Governor-General their assurance that if they only obtained one half of what was owed to them by their former Bulgarian tenants, they could easily maintain themselves until next harvest-time.

His Excellency advised them to return to their villages, the local authorities having been instructed to satisfy all such claims.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 48.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of January 20, 1880.

LES RÉFUGIÉS.—Malgré toutes les sommes que l'Assemblée Provinciale a votées en faveur des réfugiés, la situation de ces malheureux est toujours la même dans toutes des parties de la province. A quoi donc faut-il attribuer cet état de choses? Ou on n'a pas encore songé à organiser un service spécial pour cela, ou ceux qu'on en a chargés ne répondent pas à l'attente générale. Quant à la façon de distribuer les secours votés, nous ne savons pas ce que le Gouvernement a décidé là-dessus; cependant s'il faut juger des résultats qu'on a obtenus jusqu'ici, on doit admettre que le Gouvernement devrait prendre plus à cœur cette grave question.

On nous informe que des bandes entières de réfugiés quittent tous les jours leurs foyers et viennent chercher à Philippopoli quelque soulagement à leur misère. Mais ne devraient-ils pas trouver ce soulagement chez eux, sans qu'ils soient obligés de se transporter ici par ce temps de froid et de neiges? Cela ne prouve pas assez qu'on s'est soucié bien peu de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour leur venir en aide et que les milliers de livres votées en leur faveur n'ont donné jusqu'ici aucun résultat concluant.

La Société de Secours aux Réfugiés, grâce au zèle et à l'abnégation de ses honorables membres, contribue beaucoup à l'installation dans notre ville de tous les paysans Turcs, Mais a-t-on jamais demandé si les moyens dont elle dispose lui permettent de secourir tous ses gens-là? Il y a quelque temps elle a reçu la députation de trois villages, des l'arrondissement de Koïoun-Tépé, département de Philippopoli, qui lui demandait des secours. Elle avait appris de leur bouche que si les habitants de ces villages recevaient la moitié de ce qui leur revenait de la culture de leurs terres pendant la guerre, ils pourraient passer l'hiver sans qu'ils aient besoin de la charité publique. La société leur a donné une grande quantité d'habits,—et cela grâce à Mme. Layard, qui avait envoyé dernièrement à la Société sept ballots de vêtements d'hiver. M. Colmo et Cheik Effendi, membres de la Société, ont été chargés d'accompagner la députation auprès du Gouverneur-Général, pour le prier de donner à ces malheureux quelque secours en argent.

Le système adopté par la Société de Secours pour venir en aide aux réfugiés de la capitale est fort pratique. Elle s'est d'abord occupé d'inscrire le nombre des membres de chaque famille, leur état sanitaire, ainsi que le nom de tous ceux qui ont besoin de vêtements. MM. les Consuls et tous les autres membres du Comité visitaient leurs sections et veillaient en personne à ce que cette opération préliminaire se fît avec conscience et impartialité. Après quoi on a procédé à la distribution des secours, en proportion des besoins et du nombre des membres de chaque famille, et procurer du travail aux hommes et aux femmes, dans la mesure des moyens dont dispose la Société. Nous annonçons en outre que les quatre cuisines publiques, organisées dès le principe, continuent à fournir tous les jours 3,000 portions de viande et de pain.

Il n'est pas possible que le Gouvernement adopte ce même système pour les départements; il faut cependant qu'il en trouve un autre du même genre, d'autant plus que le cercle de ses opérations doit être plus large.

No. 49.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 32.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, January* 24, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith extracts from the "Philippoupolis," giving an account of two recent assaults on Turks made in this district by Bulgarians.

Two of the accompanying copies of petitions addressed to this Consulate-General refer to the same cases, in both of which the petitioners pray that they may be allowed to leave their houses and follow their vocations with security.

I regret to have to report to your Lordship that the Mouhtar of Hissar, who was placed in the local hospital, as stated in my despatch No. 12 of the 7th instant, died two days after his leg had been amputated, gangrene having set in before the authorities visited the scene of the outrage which I brought to the notice of the Governor-General.

Five or six men suspected of complicity in that outrage have at last been secured and imprisoned, although on his first journey to Hissar by the command of the Governor-General the Prefect of this department failed in his attempt to discover traces of the culprits.

It was only on the further insistance of the Governor-General, and also, I have reason to believe, on the strength of certain indications supplied by this Consulate-General, that the suspected men were arrested.

Meanwhile, the indigent family of the deceased Mouhtar, consisting of two women and three young children, is being maintained by the Central Committee for the relief of the refugees.

Three of the inclosed petitions have been addressed to the same Committee, which has transmitted them to the Governor-General, in order that he may issue or repeat the necessary orders for the relief of the petitioners, who represent that, unless so relieved, they will die of hunger and cold.

The Committee is unfortunately unable, from want of funds, to extend its relief to neighbouring villages, except in the form of clothing; but the Provincial Assembly having voted a credit of £ T. 40,000 for the relief of the indigent, it is hoped that the prayer of the petitioners will be granted by the Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

P.S.—As I learn that Aleko Pasha has expressed much indignation at my intervention in the case of the Turk wounded near Sotir, in the Rhodope, I have the honour to inclose a copy of the letter in which I forwarded his petition to the Governor-General.

Inclosure 1 in No. 49.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of January 21, 1880.

LE nommé Husséin Netsoglou, du village de Daoutiou, revenait dernièrement d'un moulin en compagnie d'un de ses amis. Chemin faisant, ils firent la rencontre de quatre Bulgares armés, qui leur demandèrent du feu et un couteau. Sur la réponse négative de Husséin, un des Bulgares tira sur lui et lui cassa le bras. Une seconde balle vint le frapper à l'aine mais sans résultat aucun, parce que le coup fut amorti par quelques pièces d'argent Husséin avait dans la poche de son gilet.

Nous apprenons que le blessé est soigné dans l'hôpital de notre ville.

Inclosure 2 in No. 49.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of January 24, 1880.

UNE cinquantaine de Turcs de Zampros, village situé sur le Rhodope et distant de sept heures de Philippopoli, vinrent Jeudi dernier dans notre ville, porteurs de bois de chauffage et d'autres produits de leur village. Après y avoir vendu leur marchandise, et acheté toutes sortes de provisions de bouche pour leurs maisons, ils en chargèrent leurs bêtes, et se mirent en route pour Zampros. Vers le tard ils arrivèrent à Déirmendéré, où ils passèrent la nuit en compagnie de quelques Bulgares. A l'aube du jour la caravane reprit sa marche vers la montagne, et au moment où elle passait le pont en pierre de Sotir, village situé à vingt minutes de Déirmendéré, elle fit la rencontre de six à sept Bulgares, parmi lesquels elle reconnut aussi un de leurs compagnons de route de la veille. Les Bulgares dirent aux Turcs de les laisser passer les premiers, mais comme ceux-ci avaient déjà engagé leurs bêtes sur le pont et qu'eux-mêmes avaient une certaine distance sur les Bulgares, ils ne purent obéir à temps à leur ordre: aussi durent-ils essuyer les insultes brutales de leurs agresseurs. Des paroles on passa aux voies de fait. Le nommé Slavisoglou asséna un si rude coup de massue à Husséin, fils de Suléïman Cachlioglou, qu'il lui fit à la tempe droite une blessure de 5 centim. de longueur, et de 15 millim. de largeur. Non contents de cette prouesse, les Bulgares battirent quelques autres Turcs et menacèrent Husséin de leurs fusils. Le blessé banda tant bien que mal sa balafre, et revint tout ensanglanté à Philippopoli, où il se réfugia au Consulat-Général d'Angleterre. On appela sur le champ le Dr. Vlados, qui cousit et banda la blessure de Husséin. Après quoi le malade fut conduit à l'hôpital de St. Pantéléimon.

Les autres Turcs qui furent battus par les Bulgares ne voulurent pas s'adresser aux autorités locales, parce que, disent-ils, leurs démarches seraient absolument inutiles.

Le Gouvernement doit punir d'une manière exemplaire les coupables, afin de faire perdre aux Turcs l'idée qu'ils se sont formée qu'ils ne doivent plus rien espérer de la justice du pays.

Inclosure 3 in No. 49.

Petition addressed to Mr. Michell.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Dourhoutlou, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:—

Quoique nous soyons rentrés tous à notre village; à cause de la mauvaise conduite de nos villageois Bulgares envers nous, il nous est impossible d'aller hors de nos maisons. Nos villageois Musulmans, lorsqu'ils vont à la forêt pour couper du bois, en route les Bulgares les arrêtent et les maltraitent, souvent même ils les blessent.

Dernièrement les nommés Hassan Oglou Nedjib et Suleyman Oglou Husséin sont allés au village de Lechnek pour faire moudre du blé.

En arrivant à ce village deux Bulgares armés tirèrent sur eux des coups de fusil, et ont blessés le nommé Nedjib, et ont battu violemment le nommé Husséin.

Après avoir pris la fuite ils sont rentrés au village.

Comme il nous est impossible à cause de la conduite des Bulgares de sortir hors de la maison pour pouvoir aller travailler, nous vous prions, M. le Consul-Général, avec nos malheureux enfants de vouloir bien venir à notre aide, et nous faire avoir notre tranquillité.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

Le Moukhtar du village de Dourhoultlou,
(Signé) TAHIR HASSAN.

Le 13 *Janvier*, 1880.

Inclosure 4 in No. 49.

Petition addressed to Mr. Michell.

(Traduction.)

JE Soussigné, habitant du village de Temreche, district de Roubdjous (Rhodope), relevant du département de Philippopoli, ai l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:—

Accompagné de vingt de mes coreligionnaires nous arrivâmes ici, et ayant acheté de céréales nous retournions à notre village, lorsque chemin faisant, passant sur le front de Sotir, cinq Bulgares de ce village nous accusèrent d'avoir entravé la route avec nos chevaux.

Ils nous insultèrent nous et notre religion. Ensuite le nommé Shifcho ainsi que ses complices se ruèrent sur nous avec les bâtons qu'ils avaient en main.

Il nous est impossible de sortir pour travailler à cause de la mauvaise conduite des Bulgares

Nous vous prions, M. le Consul-Général, de nous faire obtenir notre droit et nous faire avoir la liberté pour que nous puissions sortir pour travailler.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

Du village de Temreche,
(Signé) CACHILE SULEYMAN OGLOU HASSAN.

Le 11/23 *Janvier*, 1880.

Inclosure 5 in No. 49.

Petition addressed to the Committee of Relief.

(Traduction.)
M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Tchoullouk, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:—

Nous sommes quinze familles composées de cinquante personnes ayant vécus jusqu'ici avec grande difficulté. Sur la quantité de céréales que nous avions à réclamer on nous a donné seulement quinze kilés et on nous a refusé le reste. Si cela continue ainsi nous mourrons tous de faim; nous serons donc obligés de venir tous à Philippopoli pour prendre des rations et pouvoir vivre.

Nous vous prions donc de faire les démarches nécessaires auprès de l'autorité d'ici, et nous faire avoir les récoltes qui nous sont dues.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

Le représentant des villageois de Tchoullouk,
(Signé) AMICHE OSMAN.

Le $\frac{9}{21}$ *Janvier*, 1880.

Inclosure 6 in No. 49.

Petition addressed to the Committee of Relief.

(Traduction.)

Nous Soussignés, habitants du village de Timour Tache, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:—

Nous sommes soixante familles Musulmanes; sur ce chiffre dix familles ont reçu la partie des récoltes de l'année qui leur étaient dues. Elles peuvent vivre sans avoir besoin de secours. Mais les cinquante familles qui restent n'ayant pas de récoltes à recevoir elles ont dû vendre tous leurs champs pour vivre. Aujourd'hui elles n'ont plus rien à vendre; elles mourront de faim et de froid. Nous prions M. le Président de vouloir bien prendre les mesures qu'il jugera à propos et nous faire avoir quelques grains pour que nous puissions vivre et ne pas mourrir de faim. En attendant une réponse favorable, veuillez agréer, &c.

Le représentant de Timour Tache,
(Signé) JAKIR.

Le 10 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 7 in No. 49.

Petition addressed to the Committee of Relief.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Yahyalar, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:—

Nous sommes soixante-quinze familles; de ce chiffre quarante-trois familles ont reçu de la part des autorités une partie des récoltes de l'année passée qui leur sont dues. Cependant les autres trente-deux familles n'ayant point de récoltes à recevoir ont été obligées de vendre leurs champs à des prix insignifiants, pour se procurer le plus strict nécessaire. Aujourd'hui ils n'ont plus rien à vendre et mourront de faim et de froid. Nous vous prions, M. le Président, de vouloir bien nous fournir le moyen de vivre et ne pas mourir de faim. En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Le représentant de Yahyalar,
(Signé) YOUSSOUF OGLOU HIBRAIM.

Le 10 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 8 in No. 49.

Mr. Michell to Aleko Pasha.

Philippopoli, le 24 *Janvier*, 1880.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre ci-jointe une supplique à l'adresse de votre Excellence, que le pétitionnaire, le nommé Husséin, s'est trouvé dans l'impossibilité de présenter en personne, vu qu'après le pansement de sa blessure au Consulat-Général il a été envoyé par le Docteur Vlados à l'hôpital St. Pantéléimon.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) T. MICHELL.

No. 50.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 33.)
Philippopoli, January 25, 1880.

My Lord,

IN compliance with the instructions conveyed in your Lordship's telegram of the 18th instant, I have urged M. Schmidt, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, to retain the office of Director of Finance which he has filled with so much ability and with such satisfaction to the Great Powers. I have also added that his continuance in office was necessary for the welfare of this province.

M. Schmidt has, in reply, requested me to express his gratitude towards Her Majesty's Government, and his satisfaction at having earned such a further approval of his efforts to establish the finances of Eastern Roumelia on a firm and orderly basis.

I have reason to believe that M. Schmidt will now withdraw his resignation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 51.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 21.)
Athens, January 28, 1880.

My Lord,

THE law against brigandage which I informed your Lordship in my despatch No. 285 of the 1st December last had been put into force in consequence of the proceedings of certain brigands near the Turkish frontier, has produced the desired effect.

A few days ago, and shortly after the arrival in the Province of Eurytania of Lieutenant-Colonel Liacopoulos, commanding a flying column, sent into the district to enforce the law, three brigand Chiefs, Lelis, Dedousis, and Karageorgos, together with their followers, at once gave themselves up to the Ottoman authorities at Carditza. At the same time Karageorgos released two persons whom he had detained until the ransom he had demanded for their release was paid.

These brigands having been detained by the Turks near the Greek frontier, the Hellenic Government has instructed its Minister at Constantinople to request that they may be sent into the interior of the country.

It is understood that these brigands are arranging for their families to join them on Turkish territory, and it is hoped that this country will be rid of them altogether.

It was the reappearance of brigandage in the district above mentioned which led to the re-enactment of the old law, and it is satisfactory to see how quickly it has proved effective in stamping out the nuisance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 52.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 22.)
My Lord, *Athens, January 28, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a letter which I have received from Lieutenant and Commander E. G. Festing, in command of Her Majesty's ship "Coquette," which has been stationed in the Piræus for some time.

Lieutenant Festing reports various acts of discourtesy on the part of the Captain of Russian ship of war "Asie," which has passed a fortnight here on her way from St. Petersburgh to the Indian station.

The "Asie" sailed yesterday for her destination.

I think it right to bring Lieutenant Festing's letter under your Lordship's notice as, in addition to the incidents he mentions, on various occasions trifling acts of discourtesy on the part of Russian officers towards British officers have come under my notice unofficially since my arrival at Athens.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 52.

Captain Festing to Mr. Corbett.

Sir, *"Coquette," Piræus, Greece, January 27, 1880.*

THE Russian war steamer "Asie" arrived in the Piræus after sunset on the 15th instant, and on the following forenoon I sent an officer on board to pay the preliminary visit in accordance with Article 57, p. 15, of the Queen's Regulations and Admiralty Instructions, which visit I regret to state has not up to the present time been returned; in consequence thereof I have not made my official visit.

2. On the evening of the 21st and 23rd instant the "Asie," while exercising her electric light, repeatedly kept it thrown on Her Majesty's ship under my command for several minutes at a time, carefully avoiding, as far as I could judge, foreign and other men-of-war in the harbour. On the first occasion it was remarked to me afterwards by some of the officers of the United States' ship "Enterprise," who seemed to consider it a very unusual and extraordinary proceeding.

3. In the morning, at 8 o'clock, when the colours are hoisted, I beg to bring to your notice the fact that the band of the "Asie," after playing the Russian National Anthem, and, according to etiquette, the Anthems of the country she happens to be in and of the nations represented by men-of-war, on every occasion has omitted to play the English.

4. In conclusion, I feel it my duty, as senior British naval officer present, after careful consideration of the matter, to bring these facts to your notice especially as they have occurred in the presence of so many foreign ships of war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. G. FESTING.

No. 53.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 23.)
My Lord, *Athens, January 28, 1880.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 251 of the 22nd October, and to previous correspondence, I have the honour to report that the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires here has been instructed to demand the extradition of the brigand Spanos, who was lately condemned to death by the Assize Court of Athens.

His extradition is demanded on the ground that his arrest was made on Turkish territory, and also because, according to the view of the Porte, he is entitled to his liberty under the IInd Article of the Treaty between Turkey and Greece of the 20th April, 1856, for the suppression of brigandage, copy of which is inclosed; the acts of brigandage in Turkey having been covered by an amnesty, the Porte maintains that the amnesty extends to and covers the crimes committed by Spanos on Greek territory.

The Greek Government are much embarrassed by this demand of the Porte, as Spanos has already been found guilty and condemned to death.

He has appealed against the sentence, and his case would have come before the Court of Appeal very shortly.

The Government complains that the demand was not made sooner, or at least during the trial, and they consider that the national dignity would suffer if Spanos has now to be given up after his condemnation.

The fact of Spanos having been arrested on Turkish territory is not disputed, and, as I informed your Lordship, the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires was told to claim him on that ground, but no formal demand was made at the time, and the Greek Government thought that the Porte would not press for his extradition, he being a ruffian whom it seemed equally in the interest of both countries should be put out of the way.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 53.

Extract from the Convention between Greece and Turkey for the Suppression of Brigandage, concluded on the 20th April, 1856.

ARTICLE II. Les individus arrêtés ou saisis sur le territoire de l'un des deux Etats, qui, après la publication de la présente Convention, auraient fait partie d'une bande ayant pour but d'exercer le brigandage dans l'autre Etat, ou qui auraient tenté ou consommé des actes de brigandage dans cet Etat, seront poursuivis de la même manière et soumis aux mêmes dispositions pénales que si les actes dont ils se sont rendus coupables avaient été dirigés contre l'Etat où l'arrestation a lieu.

No. 54.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 32.)
My Lord, *Rome, January 27, 1880.*

WITH reference to Sir Henry Layard's telegram No. 38 of the 21st instant, relative to the exchange of territory which the Porte is prepared to propose to Montenegro for Gusinjé-Plava, I asked Count Maffei whether any communication had been made to the Italian Government by that of Turkey on this subject.

Count Maffei replied that the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs had asked Count Corti whether the Italian Government would use their good offices with the Prince of Montenegro in order to bring about this exchange.

Colonel Ottolenghi, the Italian Delegate for the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier, Count Maffei went on to state, had from the first expressed his opinion that it would be found extremely difficult to induce the inhabitants of Gusinjé, almost entirely Albanians, to submit to Montenegrin rule; in fact, that without a military occupation, which would be a great drain upon the resources of the Principality, it would be impossible for Montenegro to hold the country, and he had therefore suggested the advisability, in the interests of Montenegro, and for the sake of a peaceful settlement, of the district of Gusinjé-Plava being exchanged for Kuči Kraina.

The Austro-Hungarian Government, however, Count Maffei continued, was opposed to any departure from the strict letter of the Treaty of Berlin, and as the Italian Government was always suspected of intriguing against the policy of that Government, they felt reluctant to put themselves forward in this matter. Count Corti had therefore been instructed to say, in reply to the application which had been made to him for the good offices of the Italian Government, that the Italian Government, although ready to assist with other Powers in bringing about an arrangement of this question, was not anxious to play the front part in the negotiations upon it.

But immediately afterwards Count Maffei said the Turkish Minister in Rome, Turkman Bey, had made a communication in a less formal shape, simply asking whether the Italian Government would endeavour to ascertain whether such a proposal as the one alluded to would have a chance of acceptance if made by the

Porte. Count Maffei added that the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Cettinjé being a man of great discretion, an instruction had been sent to him to endeavour unofficially to obtain the information ("tâter le terrain"), and Count Corti had, of course, been duly acquainted with this step.

Count Maffei, however, did not seem to entertain much hope of the Prince of Montenegro giving his consent, although it could only be a question of *amour-propre* with him.

As far as the Italian Government were concerned, they had, Count Maffei said, no interest in the matter whatever, except that it should be amicably and satisfactorily settled. He was very anxious to know what your Lordship thought of the proposal, and requested me to make the inquiry.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 55.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(No. 30.)
My Lord, *Rome, January 31, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 6 of the 27th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I inquired to-day of Count Maffei, to whom I had imparted the substance of your Lordship's telegram No. 7 of the 29th instant, whether the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Cettinjé had as yet given any information as to the disposition of Montenegro in regard to the proposed exchange of territory for Gusinjé-Plava.

Count Maffei replied that the answer of M. Durando had been received yesterday, and was to the effect that the Montenegrin Government did not appear disinclined, being fully alive to the difficulties which Montenegro would have to encounter in occupying the district assigned to them by the Congress, to entertain the proposed exchange, and consequently, Count Maffei added, instructions had been sent to Count Corti to advise the Porte to bring the proposal formally before the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 55*.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, February 5, 1880.*

PRINCE BISMARCK will adhere to any agreement come to between your Lordship and the French Government in regard to the recognition of Roumania.

No. 56.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5, 3·45 P.M.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 5, 1880.*

AUSTRIAN Minister for Foreign Affairs says that he does not think that the Powers should press the new frontier scheme on Turkey or Montenegro, but if they agree to it between themselves he will be satisfied with it, provided that the line asked for by the Prince between the lake and the sea is not open to objection, either as menacing to Scutari or for other reasons.

He must examine that part of the proposal before giving it his assent.

Russian Government have intimated that if Austria consents to proposal they will do so also.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 57.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 5, 8 P.M.)

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 5, 1880, 4·30 P.M.*

SUBSTANCE of telegram of the 31st ultimo from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and of your answer, have been communicated to the Austrian Government, who are to-day writing to Count Károlyi to thank your Lordship for the communication, and to say that new Montenegro frontier proposed is still too vague for them to express an approval of it.

They have been informed by the Russian Government that, besides the addition of territory towards Scutari mentioned by Count Corti, the Prince requires a guarantee by the Powers, and a pecuniary indemnity from the Porte.

Austrian Government are not acquainted with nature of the guarantee expected, and are not inclined to be a party to one, nor will they support a proposal for allowing the Prince to indemnify himself at the expense of the Mussulman proprietors.

Regard must be also paid to the interests of Catholics in districts which the new scheme would make over to Montenegro.

Till these points are cleared up, Austrian Government cannot pronounce themselves in favour of the project, and will continue to look to the fulfilment of the Treaty.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 58.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 37.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 5, 1880, 5·15 P.M.*

INSTRUCT Mr. Charles St. John to keep Mr. Green informed as to state of affairs at Prisrend.

No. 59.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Ashburnham.

(No. 12.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 5, 1880.*

I HAVE to convey to you my approval of the note addressed by you to M. Natchovich, of which a copy was inclosed with your despatch No. 11 of the 9th instant, calling his Excellency's attention to the want of attention shown by the Governor of Varna to the representations that have been made to him regarding the complaints of the Mussulmans of that district.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 60.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Ashburnham.

(No. 13.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 5, 1880.*

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 13 of the 20th ultimo, transmitting a copy of a private letter you had addressed to the Bulgarian Minister of the Interior, relative to a recent Decree which prescribes that the title-deeds of Mussulmans seeking to recover their property must be accompanied by certificates from the Bulgarian Mayors.

In reply, I have to state to you that I approve your action in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 61.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Michell.

(No. 8.) *Foreign Office, February 5, 1880.*

Sir,

IN reply to your despatch No. 17 of the 8th instant, reporting the substance of a conversation you had with the Bulgarian Exarch and others relative to the incident of the seizure by Bulgarians of the Greek Church of St. Paraskevi, I have to convey to you my approval of your language upon this occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 62.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, February 6.)

Constantinople, le 3 Février, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

L'IRADÉ concernant le règlement de la communauté Protestante vient d'être rendu. Ce règlement (Constitution des Protestants) a été déposé aujourd'hui même au Ministère de la Justice et des Cultes, d'où il sera transmis au représentant de cette communauté.

No. 63.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 38.) *Foreign Office, February 6, 1880, 1·45 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

PLEASE send an immediate answer by telegraph to my despatch No. 46 of the 19th ultimo, respecting Ogle.

No. 64.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 21.) *Foreign Office, February 6, 1880, 5·30 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING received from Berlin, dated yesterday :—

"Prince Bismarck will adhere to any agreement come to between your Lordship and the French Government in regard to the recognition of Roumania."

Consult Minister for Foreign Affairs about this. In my opinion, no advantage will be gained by delaying recognition any longer. But in according it I should be disposed to intimate to the Roumanian Government that we accepted the alteration in the Constitution in the full confidence that, by a liberal execution of it, they would bring the working of their law into exact conformity with the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin.

No. 65.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 113.) *Foreign Office, February 6, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE been informed by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Berlin that Prince Bismarck is willing to adhere to any agreement which may be come to between the British and French Governments in regard to the recognition of Roumania.

I should wish your Excellency to consult M. de Freycinet about this matter; and you will state that no advantage will, in my opinion, be gained by deferring the recognition of Roumania any longer, but that in according it I should be disposed to intimate to the Roumanian Government that the alteration made by them in the constitution was accepted by the Governments of France and England in the full confidence that by a liberal execution of it the Roumanian Government were resolved

to bring the working of their law in exact conformity with the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 66.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 4. Political.) *Scutari, January 10, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have ascertained through a confidential source that a Turkish official proceeds to-morrow from this to the lines opposite to Podgoritza, where it is expected he will be met by a Montenegrin Commissioner for the purpose of exchanging written declarations to the effect that the district of Kuči Krajna has been handed over to Turkey, and Gusinjé-Plava to Montenegro, through the simple process of the withdrawal from the respective districts of all Montenegrin and Turkish civil and military officers and garisons.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 67.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 5. Political.) *Scutari, January 10, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the local version of the engagement at Gusinjé, alluded to in Sir Henry Layard's telegram of yesterday, is that the Albanians were attacked by seven battalions of Montenegrins near the hamlet of Novsice, and drove back the enemy, inflicting on him great loss, and pursuing him on his own territory. It is also said that the Montenegrins abandoned one cannon and the carriage of a second.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 68.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 6. Political.) *Scutari, January 10, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 129 of the 18th October last, I have the honour to report that the four remaining battalions of redifs, viz., Kula, Castamboul, Tchouroum, and Djenin, left this province for their homes on board a Government transport on the last day of the year, but I have not heard that they received any of the arrears of pay due to them.

The Hondoudieh (Scutari frontier) battalion having sent in a declaration to the competent Department that it could no longer serve without pay, orders have been received here to disband it, and four companies of the 4th battalion of Chasseurs of the 3rd Army Corps are now on the march to this from Monastir to replace the Hondoudieh.

The strength of the regular troops of all arms now in this province does not exceed 3,350 men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 69.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 7. Political.)
Cettinjé, January 13, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that, being anxious to ascertain the exact state of affairs in Montenegro, I arrived here yesterday on the ostensible ground of attending the Court receptions of the new year (old style).

I have obtained confirmation here that the encounter which I reported from Scutari as having occurred on the 8th instant was a most serious check for the Montenegrins, and has caused loud expressions of dissatisfaction to be heard against the policy which has led to hostilities.

It is said that the withdrawal of the Montenegrin troops from the neighbourhood of Gusinjé is contemplated, and a hope evidently exists that Austria will step in to defend the Principality against what is called the treacherous conduct of the Ottoman Government.

The Porte's proposal for the paper exchange of Gusinjé and the Kuči Kraïna, reported on the 10th instant, has been unfavourably received and cannot be carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 70.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 12. Political.)
Cettinjé, January 16, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Montenegrin troops have been withdrawn from the neighbourhood of Gusinjé to the original frontiers of the Principality; but I have failed to obtain from the Prince's Government a positive assurance that they will not resort to fresh hostilities, although it is admitted that military movements are not possible before spring, and Voïvoda Bojo Petrovich has, for the present, returned to Gusinjé.

The same climatic reasons will, most likely, put a stop to all offensive operations on the side of the Albanians.

I am strongly of opinion that, if the present respite is allowed to pass without a settlement of the Gusinjé question being effected, serious hostilities must be expected at the close of the winter.

Khalid Bey, the Turkish Envoy here, informs me that he wishes to proceed to Scutari for a short time, and I have no doubt that his presence there would lead to credence being given by the Albanians to the intention of the Montenegrins to abstain from aggressive operations for the moment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 71.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 13. Political. Confidential.)
Cettinjé, January 16, 1880.

My Lord,

SINCE the publication of the Montenegrin memorandum of the 26th ultimo, in which the seizure of the property of Mahommedans who have left the towns and districts recently annexed is announced as a set-off for the delay in the surrender of Gusinjé-Plava, a number of houses and shops belonging to Moslems have been burnt at Podgoritza.

No attempt was at first made by the Montenegrin Government to disguise the belief that the destruction had been the work of incendiaries; but now it has been

evidently thought better not to discredit the wisdom of the step adopted in the memorandum, and an accidental origin is attributed to these fires.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 72.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 18. Political. Confidential.)
Cettinjé, January 21, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that Colonel Thoemmel has informed me that Prince Nicholas offered to accept any arrangement that the Austrian Government might make for the settlement of the Gusinjé question, provided it did not entail the exchange of the Gusinjé-Plava district; but as Colonel Thoemmel believes this proviso prevents all prospect of success, he thinks the Montenegrins and Turks had better be allowed to settle their differences in the way they may deem best for themselves.

The present defenceless state of Scutari, I have been led to suspect, may have tempted the Montenegrins to seek the permission of Austria to make a sudden descent on the place, and seize it to be held as a pledge from the Porte for the delivery of Gusinjé-Plava.

As Prince Nicholas has left this afternoon on an excursion in the Principality, I shall return to Albania to-morrow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 73.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 19. Political.)
Cettinjé, January 21, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report, with reference to my despatch No. 12, Political, of the 16th instant, that the Porte has declined to allow Khalid Bey, the Turkish Envoy here, to proceed to Scutari, on the ground that the inaction in the Gusinjé question arising from the withdrawal of the Montenegrin troops is only apparent, and that very shortly his Excellency will have some important communications to make to the Montenegrin Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 74.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 21. Political. Confidential.)
Cettinjé, January 21, 1880.

My Lord,

DURING the last four or five days Colonel Thoemmel, the Austrian Minister, has had frequent audiences of the Prince, and has been holding long conferences with the Montenegrin Ministers.

Although the exact nature of the business transacted between them has not transpired, I have been assured that yesterday a secret Convention was signed by Colonel Thoemmel and the Voïvoda Verbitza, as Minister of the Interior, regulating the control to be exercised by Austria over the administration of the Port of Antivari (see Article XXIX of the Treaty of Berlin), and specifying the rights of the Austro-Hungarian Government on a line of railway to be made by it between Budua and Scutari, and which is to cross the district of Antivari.

The conclusion of such a Convention would not require it to be enveloped in mystery if it did not contain stipulations affecting ulterior views on the Albanian

terminus of the projected railway, and as I am unable to understand that this road could be carried out without some previous arrangement with the Ottoman Government, which could only consider it as a military work and of no commercial utility, I am almost inclined to doubt the correctness of the information supplied to me, and to believe that the Convention may instead contain an agreement about the temporary seizure by Montenegro of Albanian territory in the direction of Scutari to be held as security for the surrender of Gusinjé-Plava. In fact, to-day, not only Colonel Thoemmel but others also have pointed out to me that the Montenegrins may avail themselves of the defenceless state in which Scutari has been left by the withdrawal of all but two scanty and inefficient battalions to suddenly capture the place, an operation which would immediately ensure the surrender of the Turkish force at Schipshanik, the new frontier fort near Podgoritza.

In connection with the projected Austrian road from Budua to Antivari, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that early in the past autumn the Montenegrin Government commenced with great activity the construction of three carriageable roads, viz., one from Cattaro to Cettinjé; the other from Rieka, on Lake Scutari, to Cettinjé; and the third from Antivari to Vir Bazar, another Montenegrin port on the lake. All these works are superintended by Austrian engineers, the tools are supplied by the Austrian Government, and the money for their construction comes from the same source.

The activity with which the work has been pushed forward, notwithstanding the unexpected obstacles arising from an unprecedentedly severe winter, has been unremitting, and all the three roads are likely to be completed in the course of the ensuing summer, and converge on Scutari.

Possibly these and other preparations already reported to your Lordship, may have no other scope than the strengthening of the Principality against attack, but as they also tend to facilitate offensive military operations, and as to me the calmness with which the Austrian Minister contemplates the probable hostilities in the early spring between the Montenegrins and Albanians is inexplicable, I trust I shall be pardoned for troubling your Lordship with the present enumeration of my suspicions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 75.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 22. Political.)
Scutari, January 25, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 10, Political, of the 14th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a translation of an extract from a letter addressed to me by a trustworthy Albanian friend, who was in the vicinity of Gusinjé when the engagement of the 8th instant occurred. My informant being a Roman Catholic, notwithstanding the traditional dislike of his race to the Slavs, cannot altogether disguise a certain sympathy for the Christians as against the Mahommedans.

The reports still reaching me from purely Mahommedan sources daily augment the discomfiture of the Montenegrins, and I am assured that, had the extraordinary inclemency of the weather of the past fortnight not intervened, Ali Bey, of Gusinjé, had planned a sudden descent on Podgoritza for the 25th instant.

These and other plans and rumours have so elated all classes in North and North-East Albania, that it would be useless to attempt to urge upon the inhabitants counsels of moderation, and to hope that in the coming spring they will abstain from putting to the proof their fancied superiority over the Montenegrins.

I believe that the reports of the advantageous position of the Albanians are likely to exercise great influence over all connected with the Turkish Administration, and a very strong impression certainly exists that the sympathy and support of not only the Porte, but also of the Sultan, can be counted upon for the future, the past having proved to the satisfaction of all that they had really never been withdrawn.

The Central Government is kept informed of the minutest occurrences on these frontiers, and perhaps has already been misled into believing that the surrender of the ceded districts can be now safely resisted, as the Montenegrins have been beaten by the Albanians, and as the present hostilities are most unpopular in the Principality.

So persuaded am I that this may be the case, that I shall be unable to accept with any degree of confidence whatever further promises may be offered of pressure about to be brought upon the Albanians to receive unopposed the decisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 75.

Albanian Letter to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Translation.)

ON Thursday, the 8th January, Ali Bey divided his levies into four corps, and attacked the Montenegrins, who were dislodged from their positions of Velika, Argionizza, and Pepic. These three villages were burnt by the Mussulmans. One of the corps pursued the Montenegrins as far as Seen-i-Murins, where the Montenegrins turned round and pursued the Mussulmans as far as Pepic, committing great havoc amongst them. Of the Mussulmans, perhaps about 400, but it is not known for certain, were killed and wounded. Of those from Gusinjé alone seventy are counted, and one prisoner. The Mahommedans cut off twenty-three heads and brought them to Gusinjé, and placed them on stakes outside the town in company with those which were cut off on the 4th December. Of the Montenegrins it is not known for certain how many were killed and wounded. Theodori Milano's battalion brought back from the battle 150 Mahommedan noses and moustaches, and perhaps more, for the person who has furnished this information did not await the return of all the Montenegrin troops engaged in the battle.

On the evening of the 8th January the Mahommedan army returned to Gusinjé and Plava, cowed and discouraged. The Montenegrins during the same night reoccupied Pepic and the other positions, where, the houses having been burnt by the Mussulmans, they will not be able to remain.

This information has been gathered and selected from many reports, and it appears the most correct, for ——— has done his best, and even encountered risks, to obtain it.

January 11, 1880.

No. 76.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

London, February 6, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I received private advice this morning of the passage through Galatz on the 31st ultimo of about 280 Cossacks, with their horses and arms. These men are said to be travelling to Bulgaria, and probably belong to the same category as the armed party which passed through towards the end of last year, as reported in a previous despatch.

My informant adds that the Russians are continuing to fortify that part of the Pruth which lies between Ungheni and Seuleni.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 77.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 90.)
Paris, February 6, 1880.

My Lord,

IN his telegram No. 54 of the 3rd instant, which your Lordship has been so good as to repeat to me, Sir Henry Layard informs your Lordship that M. de Tocqueville is at Constantinople, and appears to be engaged in some secret negotiations with the Palace about a loan, the exact nature of which Sir Henry is unable to ascertain.

I have made inquiries here on the subject, and have, I think, ascertained that none of the principal financial societies or financiers here (except possibly the Baron de

Soubeyran) are concerned in M. de Tocqueville's operations, or have any knowledge of the details of them. In fact, his scheme, whatever it may be, does not appear to be in any way connected with what is termed the "haute finance" at Paris.

On the other hand, it is certain that M. Dreyssé, the Sultan's French Aide-de-camp, is here, and it is generally believed that he has come with some financial mission from His Majesty.

The most plausible conjecture which I have heard is, that M. de Tocqueville is endeavouring to obtain, as he did before, some concession very favourable to his own interests; and that the Sultan, warned by past experience, has sent M. Dreyssé to Paris to see how the land lies, and to ascertain what probability there may be of M. de Tocqueville's being able to fulfil the promises he has no doubt made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 78.

Note communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Admiral Pothuau, February 7.

LE Gouvernement Français vient d'être informé que la Porte serait disposée à consentir à une transaction destinée à résoudre pacifiquement la question de Gusinjé-Plava au moyen d'un échange de territoire.

La Turquie accorderait au Monténégro, contre l'abandon de Plava et de Gusinjé, une frontière qui, partant du Golfe Kastrati, dans le Lac de Scutari, suivrait la crête des montagnes au-dessus des districts Catholiques de (?) joindrait la rivière Zem près de Cerci, et longerait ensuite le bras septentrional de ce cours d'eau.

L'Italie et l'Autriche appuieraient cette combinaison. Le Prince Nicolas l'accepte en principe, sauf quelques réserves; il ne veut toutefois prendre aucune initiative, et désire s'en remettre à l'Europe de provoquer, si elle le juge utile, une modification du tracé arrêté à Berlin.

Le Gouvernement Français est disposé à prêter son concours à la proposition dont il s'agit si elle obtient l'assentiment des autres Puissances. Il désirerait connaître à cet égard la pensée du Gouvernement de la Reine. Il pense qu'il y aurait profit pour toutes les parties intéressées, et avantage pour la paix générale, à ne pas rattacher de force au Monténégro des populations qui lui sont manifestement hostiles, comme les Albanais de Plava et de Gusinjé.

La Place de Podgoritza se trouverait entièrement dégagée, et son importance considérablement augmentée par la rectification de frontières proposée.

Londres, le 7 Février, 1880.

No. 79.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 7, 12·30 P.M.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 7*, 1880, 10·10 A.M.

YOURS No. 38.

In order to answer your despatch about Ogle, I have communicated with Mr. Blunt. I am unable to state with confidence whether Greek witnesses could come forward with safety or not; but I have no reason to think they would be in danger if proper means were taken to protect them. I have no doubt that any number of Greek witnesses could be obtained for money, but I question whether it would now be possible to have a full and impartial inquiry, as trustworthy evidence on the other side could not be obtained.

No. 80.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 7, 2·20 P.M.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 7*, 1880, 1·25 P.M.

COUNT CORTI'S views as to the proposed exchange of territory are as follows:—

"All questions relating to southern frontier of Montenegro were left to the decision of the Powers by the Commission of Delimitation. No definite frontier can be traced between different tribes. Catholics are scattered over the country; some were included in territory already ceded.

"But arrangements have already been agreed to between Prince and the Pope which have given perfect satisfaction to the parties concerned. A compensation must be found if Turkey is to keep Plava and Gusinjé.

"Plan proposed furnishes fair compensation, solves all questions left open by Commission, gives both Turkey and Montenegro a good frontier, and prevents a serious conflict. Difficulties are raised by military authorities which it is still hoped to overcome."

Count Corti says he is determined not to continue his conciliatory offices for more than a few days. He is more satisfied with Austrian Minister, who appears to have received instructions from Vienna not to oppose him.

No. 81.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 7*, 1880, 11 P.M.

FRENCH Ambassador, on behalf of France, has pressed us to accept French line as basis for action of Committee of Experts, to which they do not object.

Reply will be given to him to the effect that we should be reluctant to accept French line beforehand, as there are grave objections to it; that we consider Protocols of Berlin sufficient base for the Commission to start from, and that we do not contemplate a Commission of Experts, but an International Boundary Commission, such as that which delimitated Bulgaria, and which considered and decided by a majority, not only questions of art, but also questions of policy.

If they speak to you again, please speak in this sense.

No. 82.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 122.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 7*, 1880.

THE French Ambassador called here yesterday, and stated that he was charged by his Government to inform Her Majesty's Government that they were especially anxious to bring about a solution of the Greek Frontier question, lest the delay in its settlement should give rise to disturbances such as have been apprehended in the case of Montenegro.

His Excellency stated that M. de Freycinet was not opposed to the nomination of experts for the purpose of effecting the delimitation, but that he urged that they must in the first place have a basis to work upon, as otherwise they were not likely to arrive at any conclusion in a matter involving such important political considerations as the delimitation of the territories in question.

The French Ambassador therefore expressed a hope that Her Majesty's Government would be disposed to accept, as a *point de départ*, the line of division which had been suggested in general terms by M. Waddington, and reiterated the desire of his Government to arrive at a satisfactory understanding and agreement with Her Majesty's Government on the question.

To-day I caused the French Ambassador to be informed, in answer to his inquiries, that it appeared to Her Majesty's Government that the Protocols of the Treaty of Berlin were quite sufficient as a basis for the guidance of the proposed Commission. They did not, however, consider that there was any reason for designating the Commission as a "Commission of Experts." It should rather be termed an International Boundary Commission, like that of Bulgaria, which was commissioned to determine, and did determine, by the voice of the majority, not only questions of a technical nature, but also questions of policy.

I added, that the proposed French line of demarcation appeared to Her Majesty's Government to be open to many objections, and that they would be reluctant to bind themselves to it without further examination upon the spot.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 83.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 8, 12·30 P.M.)

Scutari, February 7, 1880, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING is a translation of reply given to me by the Montenegrin Minister for Foreign Affairs with reference to your telegram of the 2nd:—

"On a confidential communication from the Italian Government to the effect that the Powers are prepared to treat without Porte for an exchange, the Montenegrin Government made known to it the conditions on which it would accept it.

"We are under the impression that it is the Powers who are negotiating the affair. The Prince's Government takes no initiative nor responsibility."

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 84.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 8, 6 P.M.)

Vienna, February 8, 1880, 3·30 P.M.

(No. 14.)

(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING has been sent to Sir H. Layard, dated to-day:—

"As Count Dubski has been informed that his Government have no objection to principle of scheme for settling the Montenegrin frontier question, there seems no reason for Count Corti to relax his efforts to bring it about, but the Austrian Government will not move in the matter till informed of its exact nature.

"Italian Ambassador here tells the Austrian Government that the scheme comes entirely from the Porte, and that his own Government have done nothing more than make it known to the Prince of Montenegro, without expressing any opinion in its favour, or making any attempt to bring it about."

No. 85.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 8, 11 P.M.)

Constantinople, February 8, 1880, 8·5 P.M.

(No. 58.)

(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed that the French Ambassador has demanded verbally that the Governor of Alexandretta and the Commander of the troops there, I believe, shall be dismissed within twenty-four hours, and the others tried, for the manner in which they dealt with the sailors of the French man-of-war who sacked Spanish Vice-Consulate, and committed other outrages. Consul Henderson states that the French are entirely in the wrong, and that inquiry made by an Armenian who was sent to place by the Porte has been a most partial one.

No. 86.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

Canea, Crete, January 20, 1880.

(No. 6. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord,

IT is now three weeks since the three ringleaders of the recent serious disturbance in Candia, reported in my despatch No. 2 of the 3rd instant, were brought here for imprisonment. The object of their detention in Canea instead of the place where they were arrested was to guard against the danger of an attempt at rescue on the part of a large sympathizing population. Their friends meanwhile have been doing all in their power to induce the Procureur-Impérial to release them on bail, which he has steadily refused to do, on the ground of their being accused of a crime (that of inciting the people to attack the troops in the discharge of their duty as guardians of the peace), and not of a simple misdemeanour. They succeeded, however, through the untiring efforts of the Mussulman Counsellor, Halil Bey, in procuring an order for their release

on bail from the Court of Appeal. The Court of First Instance in Candia has at length concluded taking all the depositions of the witnesses in this affair, and are only awaiting the departure of the post to send the evidence here. As soon as it is forthcoming the trial will come off before the Court of Appeal at Canea, which is a Criminal Tribunal for the graver class of offences. It will be watched with a keen interest by both sections of the population on account of the social position of the prisoners, two of whom were members of the Administrative Council of Candia, and a third a Judge of the Court of First Instance.

It has become painfully evident that the task of providing a class of upright and trained Judges for the local Tribunals is a disappointing one, and at the best will be a work of time. In the first place, no worse system could have been devised than that of popular election for securing the class of functionaries required, and the only hope of counteracting the tendency of the elected Judges to acquit their co-religionists and to condemn those of another faith lies in the choice of the President, who has a casting vote. It is undeniable that the Vali has spared no pains to select the most competent men for the posts of Presidents and Procureurs of the Courts. His Excellency has not been altogether unsuccessful in finding capable Christian lawyers, two of the new Presidents having been induced to resign judicial positions in Greece for higher but scarcely more lucrative ones here. It is in the search after educated Mussulman lawyers that the Pasha has failed. Of the total number of Procureurs and Presidents of the Courts of First Instance five are Mussulmans and five Christians; but while all the latter have legal diplomas, or have satisfied the Local Board of Examiners as to their qualifications, neither of these conditions has been fulfilled (with one exception) by the former. Moreover, by the absurd system of education obtaining in the Mahommedan schools, which compels the scholars to read and write Turkish, while leaving them in ignorance of their mother tongue, the new Mussulman Judges are incapable of conducting an inquiry in the accepted legal phraseology, of understanding the pleading of the advocates, or of drawing up a sentence in proper form. The majority are, moreover, extremely prejudiced against the recent innovations in judicial practice, and instead of urging on the work of reform, they are a dead weight in the path of those charged with carrying it out, while by the absence of authorized Codes of Procedure, there are often unseemly disputes about the methods of procedure to be employed.

It has been my agreeable duty on previous occasions to report to your Lordship the wholesome influence exercised on the enlightened Mussulman public by the new Procureur-Impérial, M. Scalzounis. I regret to say that, owing to the indefatigable exertions of the retrograde majority of that community, which have been openly encouraged by the Mussulman Counsellor above referred to, a reaction has taken place, and it is foreseen that when the General Assembly, which is to meet in a few days, comes to discuss the new Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure elaborated by M. Scalzounis, the entire Mussulman vote will be given against its adoption and in favour of the Code lately promulgated by Said Pasha when Minister of Justice. It would of course be premature, before the publication of the Cretan Codes, to pronounce an opinion on their merits, but I shall shortly be in a position to give your Lordship a general idea of their spirit and tenour by forwarding a translation, now printing in Athens, of a Report drawn up by their author explaining the principles which have guided him in the elaboration of these Codes.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 87.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

Canea, Crete, January 24, 1880.

(No. 7. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord,

ONE of the chief difficulties encountered by Photiades Pasha in carrying out his plans for reorganizing the Tribunals, and generally in administering the island, is to be traced to the opposition of the Mussulman Counsellor, Halil Bey. This functionary, who is a partisan of the present Prime Minister, Said Pasha, has always identified himself with the more bigoted class of Mussulmans, whose dissatisfaction with the existing régime he has not ceased to aggravate by representing the recent innovations as a systematic attempt on the part of the Vali and the Christians to

degrade and humiliate the Mahommedans. Quite recently he has been advising his co-religionists of Candia, Rethymo, and Selino to abstain from sending Representatives to the General Assembly, and at one time it seemed likely that he would succeed in his intrigues.

Again, it was mainly through his influence that the prisoners from Candia were released on bail, contrary to the expressed opinion of the Procureur-Impérial, who told him plainly that it was no business of his to interfere in judicial affairs. The last intrigue in which he has been involved, and which has led to a rupture of the relations between him and the Governor-General, I take the liberty of relating to your Lordship at some length.

A certain Cretan, named Calocherinos, lately came to Canea to practise at the local Courts as an advocate. His antecedents were very unfavourable, and he was known to have become bankrupt. By a law passed by the last General Assembly it was enacted that no bankrupt should be allowed to practise as a barrister unless he was rehabilitated. A petition was accordingly filed against his right to practise on that ground, and his licence was cancelled. He hereupon, apparently from motives of revenge, and, as the sequel showed, at the instigation of Halil Bey, vamped up a groundless accusation against the new Procureur-Impérial, M. Scalzounis, which he had no difficulty in refuting.

Foiled in this attempt to blacken the reputation of a distinguished man, to which he confessed he was instigated by Halil Bey, the latter frequently urged Photiades Pasha to reverse the decision forbidding M. Calocherinos to practise as a barrister, and at last intimated to his Excellency that if he did not accede to his demand in twenty-four hours he would grant the requisite permission himself. He further made the imprudent declaration that if the Pasha consented to his request he would induce the Mussulman minority at the approaching meeting of the Assembly to vote in favour of M. Scalzounis' new project of laws. Indignant at this cynical avowal of a plan for wrecking the chance of the island's obtaining Codes of Law, Photiades Pasha told Halil Bey that he could have no further official relations with him, and yesterday telegraphed to the Porte a request for his immediate dismissal.

The Pasha, who yesterday related these particulars to me, begged me to acquaint Her Majesty's Ambassador, by telegraph, of the interruption of his relations with the Mushaver (Counsellor), and of the necessity of his recall. I accordingly lost no time in dispatching a telegram to his Excellency to that effect.

I attach great importance to the withdrawal of this functionary from Crete, where his influence is distinctly injurious. The Vali has an increasing conviction, which is shared by many others, that the Mussulmans are bent on creating embarrassment to the Local Government, for the sake of proving that the present organization controlled by a Christian Governor will end in failure, and can never give peace to the island. Halil Bey is the soul of the party wielding this noxious influence, and being the confidant of the Prime Minister and in frequent communication with two Mussulman Cretans, who have established relations with the Palace, efforts are constantly making to thwart Photiades Pasha in his measures for improving the administration. This tendency is apparent enough to those on the spot, and it would be easy to give instances of it were it possible to do so consistently with brevity. I content myself with pointing to that related in my despatch No. 3 of the 3rd instant.

Photiades Pasha assures me that unless the Porte consents to remove Halil Bey he will himself resign.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 88.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February 9.*)

(No. 6.)
My Lord, *Nisch, January 25, 1880.*

I HAVE had several conversations with M. Ristich, and likewise with M. Maries, who was lately employed in investigating and reporting upon the state of the land question in the newly annexed territories. According to the statements of both these gentlemen the majority of the properties owned by the Mussulmans are held on a kind of feudal tenure ("spahilicks, &c.") much in the same way as in Bosnia, the peasants having been allowed to remain in undisturbed possession of their fields and tenements on condition of serving to the Lord of the Manor a certain fixed annual rent in money,

or more frequently in kind, and of working for him so many days a-year. The Servian Government have decided to do away with this condition of things, because it clashes with the land laws obtaining in the rest of the Principality, and also because since the Servian occupation the peasants refuse to pay rent or else to cultivate the land.

They are, therefore, about to submit to the Legislature a Bill, authorizing them to indemnify this class of Mussulman proprietors for the loss of their manorial rights, and to levy the requisite amount from the peasants benefited by the measure, the estimated money value of the annual payments in money, in kind, and in labour being capitalized at 12 per cent., the legal rate of interest in the country, and paid in instalments extending over several years. The Government also propose to leave to local Committees, selected from amongst the Christian and Mussulman population, the task of considering the claims of the landlords, and the counter-claims of the peasants, and to fix the amount of compensation to be paid in each individual case.

I remarked to M. Ristich that there was a fatal objection to the scheme, which would, I felt certain, draw down upon the Servian Government the remonstrances of the Porte, and perhaps also of the Signatory Powers. Whether the Servian Government might be able to justify these proceedings was a matter open to doubt, which I did not feel called upon to discuss at present; but it was obvious that the plan of paying the indemnity to be allotted to the Mussulman proprietors by instalments extending over a series of years would be tantamount to confiscating their properties at the end of that period, since they would then be left without capital or the means of existence. Whatever compensation was paid them must be handed over to them in a lump sum, in order to enable them to settle down elsewhere. His Excellency at once agreed; but said the difficulty was to find the necessary sum, as Servia neither had sufficient funds in hand for the purpose, nor foreign credit to raise the required amount. On my explaining that means might be found to raise the necessary loan by mortgaging the annual instalments to be exacted from the peasants, his Excellency said he approved the plan and would endeavour to act upon it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 89.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February 9.*)

(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Nisch, January 28, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6 of the 25th instant, on the subject of the Mussulman landed proprietors in the newly annexed districts, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the translation of a petition they have addressed to me and the Austrian Representative, protesting against the proceedings of the Servian Government towards them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure in No. 89.

Résumé of Petition of the Turkish Owners of Chefliks.

(Traduction.)

LES dix-neuf signataires, propriétaires de fermes et terrains à Nisch, Pirot, Leskovatz, et Urkub, déclarent avoir perdu, depuis l'entrée des Serbes, la jouissance de leurs immeubles, n'avoir rien reçu en fait de revenus, avoir vendu meubles, &c., pour pouvoir exister, et être actuellement dans la plus grande misère. Ils sollicitent, en conséquence, en vertu de l'Article XXXIX du Traité de Berlin, la remise entre leurs mains de leurs propriétés, et déclarent également n'avoir jamais consenti à leur aliénation, comme n'avoir pris vis-à-vis du Gouvernement Serbe aucun engagement à cet effet. Ils finissent, en priant son Excellence le Représentant d'Angleterre de faire intervenir son Gouvernement en leur faveur pour la stricte exécution des dispositions prises au Congrès de Berlin.

(Noms des signataires du Mahzar suivent.)

Nisch, le 5 Janvier, 1880.

No. 90.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February 9.*)

(No. 9. Confidential.)

Nisch, January 29, 1880.

My Lord,

AALI BEY, formerly President of the European Danube Commission, has arrived here to act as the Ottoman member of the Joint Commission, which, in accordance with the XXXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, is to settle all matters relating to the properties of the State and the religious foundations ("vakoufs"). He has met with a most cordial and flattering reception from Prince Milan and his Government. The Servian Commissioner who is to act with him will be, as agreed upon between M. Ristich and myself, named immediately after the close of the present Session of the Skuptschina, and there seems to be every disposition on the part of the Servian Government to come to an amicable settlement of all the questions still in abeyance between the two countries.

Unfortunately, differences of so serious a nature have arisen between Aali Bey and Sermed Effendi, the Ottoman Envoy at Belgrade, that the former would already have thrown up his appointment, and returned to Constantinople, were it not that he has consented, at my request, to prolong his stay here, pending the decision of the Sublime Porte on the subject.

I have reported the facts of the case to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and I cannot help thinking it would be in the interest of the Porte to remove Sermed Effendi from his present post. It is a very painful thing to be compelled to say of a colleague; but his personal character does not bear investigation. He has, moreover, become a complete tool in the hands of the Russian Minister, whose boon companion he is. He is continually raising difficulties of various kinds with the Servian Government, that by a slight exercise of discretion and tact could easily be avoided.

Under such circumstances all the efforts I have hitherto made to promote friendly relations between the Servian Government and the Sublime Porte, in order to facilitate the execution of the remaining stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, must in a great measure prove fruitless.

I have, &c.

(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 91.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February 9.*)

(No. 15.)

Sophia, January 27, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 13 of the 20th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have learnt that for the last few days Mussulmans, on presenting their title-deeds before the Mixed Commission, are desired to wait for a day or two, as orders have been given by the Ministry of the Interior for the rescision of the obnoxious Decree relating to the signatures of the Bulgarian Mayors, but that the Protocol embodying this order had not yet been drawn up.

In future no formality will be required in the case of original title-deeds, and in that of copies from the Defter Khané in Constantinople, the legalization by the Bulgarian Agent there will suffice.

I have not as yet been vouchsafed any answer, official or otherwise, from M. Grecoff to my letter of the 16th instant, but if the above information is, as I believe, correct, it would appear to have produced the desired effect.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 92.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February 9.*)

(No. 16.)

Sophia, January 27, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the arrival here, on the 25th instant, of General Bilinski (Nihat Pasha), who has been appointed by the Porte, in

conformity with the XIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, its Commissioner, to deal with the questions of Vakouf and State property in Bulgaria.

Nihat Pasha, being provided with a letter of introduction to me from Sir Henry Layard, called on me yesterday to explain the object of his mission, and to request my assistance in the discharge of it.

This I promised to afford as far as I possibly could.

Nihat Pasha's colleague, Fazli Bey, and the rest of the Commission, with the necessary archives and documents, are expected in the course of the week. He has informed me that he was instructed by Sawas Pasha not to put himself too much forward in the defence of private interests, but that when any cases of gross injustice were brought to his notice, he might do what he could to remedy them. He expressed himself much satisfied at hearing that the Mixed Commission had been ordered to abandon its recent pretension to demand the legalization of Mussulman title-deeds, as this regulation, if insisted on, would have been a great obstacle to the discharge of his mission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 93.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February 9.*)

(No. 17. Confidential.)

Sophia, January 27, 1880.

My Lord,

M. NATCHOVITZ called upon me this afternoon in a great state of perturbation at the arrival of Nihat Pasha, who, in the letter which he addressed yesterday to his Excellency, had styled himself "Commissaire Impérial." What was meant by this designation? his Excellency asked me. Was it intended that he should have the same position with regard to the Bulgarian Government as that lately held by Prince Dondoukoff and Portev Effendi, and what was the real object of this sudden and unannounced arrival of the Commission?

I endeavoured to calm M. Natchovitz' fears by assuring him that, as far as I knew, the Commission had been appointed under the XIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, which provided for the settlement, within two years, by a Commission, of the affairs relating to State and Vacouf property and certain private interests, and as the word "Commission" exists in the text of the Treaty, I did not see why the Bulgarian Government should take exception to the word "Commissioner."

His Excellency went on to complain of the want of courtesy shown by the Porte in not having informed the Bulgarian Government of its intention, and in sending a Commission into Bulgaria without consulting the Prince, as though it were a mere province of the Turkish Empire. The question of the Vacouf, he said, was one of the greatest importance, as a large proportion of the property in the country belonged to this category, or to that of Crown lands, and it would be a work of some years to settle it.

The moment, also, he said, was ill chosen, as the Prince was on the point of leaving for St. Petersburgh, and would not return till March, and as His Highness took a deep interest in, and insisted upon being made acquainted with, all that took place in the country, it was not likely that he would wish the Commission to set to work in his absence.

I pointed out to his Excellency, in reply, that if the work was really one which required so much time for its completion, it was to the advantage of all parties that it should be begun as soon as possible, without waiting for the expiration of the two years allowed by Treaty; and as for the absence of the Prince, seeing that His Highness was obliged to return in March for the opening of the Chambers, I did not think that there was any fear of the Commission being too expeditious in its proceedings to allow of the Prince taking his share in its labours.

To some of my colleagues who appear to have shared M. Natchovitz' misgivings as to the real motive of Nihat Pasha's mission, I have given the same reply, which I hope will meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 94.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 18.)
My Lord, *Sophia, January* 27, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 10 of the 19th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Natchovitz told me to-day that the Bulgarian Government have agreed to the proposal of the Austro-Hungarian Government with reference to the nomination of a Commissioner to facilitate the return of the Mussulman refugees to this country, and that he has written to M. Zancov on the subject, begging him to telegraph when the Ottoman Commissioner is named, so that his Bulgarian colleague may at once join him on the frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM

No. 95.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 33.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January* 26, 1880.

I HAVE communicated to the Austro-Hungarian Government the substance of Sir Henry Layard's telegram to your Lordship, repeated to me on the 24th instant, reporting the compromise suggested by the Porte upon the question of Gusinjé and Kuči Kraïna; the cession to Montenegro of a portion of the latter, in consideration of the retention by Turkey of that part of the Gusinjé district which is inhabited by Mussulmans. The Austro-Hungarian Government will take the proposal into consideration, and intimate their opinion upon it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 96.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 34.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January* 27, 1880.

THE Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople has informed his Government that he had been requested by Sawas Pasha to convey to them the warm acknowledgments of the Porte for the representations they had made to the Bulgarian Government in favour of the Mussulman refugees. He had been asked at the same time to beg that as these unfortunate people are amassed in considerable numbers on the frontier of the Principality, they would urge the Prince to contribute to their relief.

The Imperial Government have promised to do so, but without engaging that their representations will be successful, and though it is certain that Prince Alexander feels deep compassion for the sufferings of this class of his subjects, and would gladly do all in his power to alleviate them, it may well be doubted whether his Government is animated by equally humane sentiments.

The Bulgarians had been taught to aim at the systematic extermination of their Mussulman countrymen, and every day in which the refugees are left to perish of cold and hunger will diminish the number of those who will return to claim the property now occupied by others, and contribute to the success of the inhuman object that has been pursued for the last two years.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 97.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January* 29, 1880.

I ASKED Baron Haymerle last night whether he had taken into consideration the compromise which the Porte seemed disposed to propose upon the Montenegrin and Albanian Frontier question.

He said that he thought it well entitled to attention, as there was much to be said in its favour, but there were also objections to it that cannot be lost sight of, one of these being that under this project the districts to be ceded to Montenegro contain Catholic populations which may be unwilling to be annexed to the Principality.

It would in any case, Baron Haymerle observed, be necessary for the Porte to define its proposal more accurately, and that both parties should declare that they would be bound by the agreement to be come to on the new basis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 98.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 38. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January* 29, 1880.

WITH reference to my preceding despatch, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that last summer the Austrian Montenegrin Frontier Commissioner had represented to his Government the advantage of a compromise such as is now spoken of on the Gusinjé-Plava and Kuči Kraïna question.

This has no doubt contributed to make them look upon this new proposal with greater favour than I had anticipated after the frequent declarations that were made of not allowing any modification of the plain provisions of the Treaty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 99.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 41.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February* 1, 1880.

I LEARN that the Austrian Government have sounded the Prince of Montenegro upon the suggested compromise respecting the reciprocal cessions of Turkey and the Principality, and that they have been informed by His Highness that he considers the proposal acceptable, but as a condition of his acceptance he adds an obligation on the part of the Porte to indemnify the Mussulman proprietors of Gusinjé for the lands which they may abandon, or which he proposes to take in order to recoup himself for the expense to which he has been put in military preparations, caused by the delay of the Turkish Government in making over the territories assigned to him.

Baron Haymerle's observation to me on this pretension was "que c'était un peu fort."

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 100.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 46. Confidential.)
Vienna, February 3, 1880.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship is aware that Prince Alexander of Bulgaria will shortly go to St. Petersburgh for the ostensible purpose of congratulating the Emperor of Russia upon the 25th anniversary of his accession.

I understand that the real object of His Highness' journey is to obtain the sanction of the Emperor to an alteration of the present Bulgarian Constitution which he considers to make the government of the country impracticable.

The Austrian Government since the moment of the promulgation of the Bulgarian Organic Statute, elaborated under the auspices of Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, were convinced of its unsuitableness for the country, and that it could not be made to work, and they would certainly wish to see Prince Alexander's position strengthened by material modifications of it.

The Treaty of Berlin provided that the Organic Statute was to be made by the Bulgarians themselves, and however little qualified they may have proved for the performance of such a task, it not easy to see how their work is to be set aside without their own consent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 101.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 51.)
Vienna, February 4, 1880.

My Lord,

IT appears from a telegram which I received this morning from Sir H. Layard that Count Dubsky has some suspicion that the new scheme respecting the Montenegrin and Albanian frontier originates in an Italian intrigue.

His Government do not appear to me to share this apprehension, for I was told yesterday that although they did not wish to put themselves forward by suggesting the compromise, they are so anxious to see the question settled before the spring that they will regard with satisfaction any agreement that will lead promptly to this result, but as the adoption of the proposal would be at variance with the terms of the Treaty, they will, I imagine, consider the unanimous acquiescence of the Powers to be requisite.

A telegram was received yesterday from the Austrian Minister at Cettinjé reporting that the Italian Agent there had already made the suggestion in the name of his Government to the Prince of Montenegro, who had expressed himself as being well disposed to accept it, but said that he would require some further extension of the territory to be ceded to him in the direction of Scutari, of the extent of which, however, the Imperial Government is still uninformed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 102.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 57. Confidential.)
Vienna, February 5, 1880.

My Lord,

BARON HAYMERLE tells me that the publication at Constantinople of the Protocols of the negotiation of the Novi-Bazar Convention obliged him to address a very sharp communication to the Porte, calling upon it to declare upon what footing it considered the two countries to stand.

A short time ago a summary demand had been made for the withdrawal of the Austrian squadron from Turkish waters; next, Count Zichy, the Imperial Ambassador, had been allowed to leave Constantinople without the marks of courtesy usual on such occasions; and now, contrary to all international usage, Protocols of negotiations

had been made public without the assent of one of the parties to them, and the Imperial Government were therefore entitled to inquire what all these discourteous proceedings meant.

Sawas Pasha had, Baron Haymerle said, made lame excuses and false explanations, but coupled with ample professions of regret, and there the matter would rest.

With regard to the publication of the Protocols, the accuracy of which he denies (though I doubt there having been more incorrectness than what is inevitable in a double translation), he believes Said Pasha to have been the person chiefly responsible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 103.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 18. Confidential.)
Bucharest, January 26, 1880.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH it at first sight appeared, as I had the honour to report to your Lordship on the 8th instant, that the Imperial authorities at Berlin had expressed satisfaction at the progress made with the Railway Bill, information has been received later, from which I am led to suppose that some influence hostile to the passing of this important measure has been at work since.

Your Lordship is aware, from my previous correspondence, that the principal leaders of the opposition and most violent opponents of this Bill happen to be members of the Railway Board, and in this position they have enjoyed for years the friendship and confidence of the bankers of the Company at Berlin, and are holding constant communications with them.

Every stratagem is resorted to for the purpose of throwing suspicion at Berlin, and at the same time for discrediting the proposed measure even amongst some of the warmest supporters of the Ministry at Bucharest, by representing it as leading to financial ruin, and as an unwarrantable act of interference on the part of Germany, and of the Western Powers acting in concert with her.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 104.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 20.)
Bucharest, January 27, 1880.

My Lord,

M. BRATIANO at last has succeeded in inducing his supporters in the Chamber of Deputies to accept, with regard to the Railway Bill, the re-establishment of the original text of the Convention, in conformity with the wishes communicated from Berlin.

The law authorizing the Government to purchase the railway lines from the Company was finally adopted by the Chamber this evening by 72 against 42; 11 members abstaining from voting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 105.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 22.)
Bucharest, January 31, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that it has been officially announced at Bucharest that the Governments of Greece and of the Netherlands have notified their recognition of Roumania and their desire to open regular diplomatic relations with this country.

The form adopted for this communication has not been exactly the same for both these Kingdoms. Greece has been merely content with signifying acceptance of

M. Exarcho as the future Minister of Roumania at Athens, and has as yet not reciprocated that proceeding by appointing a Diplomatic Representative at this Court.

The Government of the Low Countries have instructed their Consul-General here, M. Kenn, to notify formal recognition to M. Bocresco, and have at the same time intimated their intention to give additional rank to their Agent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 106.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 23.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, February* 2, 1880.

A WISH having been intimated from Berlin that the meaning of certain minor modifications in the text of the law on the Railway Bill should be officially explained in the Chambers, in such a way as to satisfy the constantly-recurring apprehensions of the bankers interested in the scheme, the Ministers have induced the "Rapporteur" on the law in the Chamber, M. Pherechide, to introduce in this document, of which I have the honour to inclose a French translation, words to that effect. These I have inclosed in brackets.

A similar explanation was made this afternoon by Ministers in the Senate, and it is hoped that this will be the closing incident of the difficulties arising out of the passing of the Railway Bill in a manner to comply with the demands of Germany.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 106.

LE RACHAT DES CHEMINS DE FER.

Rapport fait à la Chambre des Députés sur le Projet de Loi relatif au Rachat des Chemins de Fer.

Messieurs,

LE Comité des Délégués, chargé d'étudier les modifications apportées par le Sénat au Projet de Loi déjà voté pour le rachat des chemins de fer, s'est constitué sous la présidence de M. P. Cernatesco, et a tenu séance le 9 Janvier en présence de MM. les Ministres. Le Comité a été composé de MM. D. Giani, St. Corlanesco, N. Fleva, Th. Boldour-Latsesco, N. Ionesco, P. Cernatesco, et M. Pherychide.

Après discussion, après avoir entendu les explications données par MM. les Ministres, il a été procédé au vote, et les modifications votées par le Sénat ont été adoptées par six voix contre un, celle de M. N. Jonesco qui a soutenu l'opinion de la sixième section qui est la non-prise en considération du Projet.

Le Comité m'a ensuite chargé du Rapport. J'ai donc l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de la Chambre les modifications apportées au Projet déjà voté et les raisons pour lesquelles elles ont été admises par le Comité.

Je ne développerai pas en detail les motifs invoqués par la minorité pour repousser le Projet, ils se réfèrent tant aux avantages qui ont décidé votre premier vote, qu'aux critiques multiples faites par la minorité au cours de la discussion contre la Convention même, acceptée par vous.

Quant aux motifs de la majorité, ils sont fondés, ainsi que le vote du Sénat, sur l'appréciation d'une situation qui, à la suite de vos premiers débats, a été modifiée. C'est ce qui explique pourquoi moi-même qui ai été l'auteur de l'amendement repoussé par le Sénat, je viens au nom du Comité prier l'honorable Assemblée d'adopter les modifications introduites par le Sénat.

Lorsque le Projet pour le rachat des chemins de fer est venu pour la première fois devant l'Assemblée, plusieurs membres de la majorité ont cherché à introduire dans la Convention et dans les Statuts diverses modifications destinées à mieux garantir les intérêts de l'Etat vis-à-vis de la Société Commerciale avec laquelle on est en train de traiter.

Ces membres de la majorité, qui désiraient néanmoins arriver au rachat, ont formulé par un amendement que j'ai moi-même eu l'honneur de présenter devant la Chambre, plusieurs dispositions à introduire dans le Projet. Ils croyaient alors que leurs demandes n'altéraient pas d'une manière essentielle la Convention, aujourd'hui encore ils sont persuadés qu'elles n'étaient pas sans fondement. Vous avez, du reste, été de cet avis: des débats du Sénat, il ne ressort pas qu'on se soit prononcé dans un sens contraire.

Le Sénat, malgré tout cela, a laissé de côté quelques-unes des nouvelles dispositions introduites par vous dans le Projet primitif de Convention. Les motifs de cette résolution qui se voient dans le Rapport du Comité des Délégués du Sénat sont:—

1. Que le refus à Berlin de ces quelques modifications eut amené, si le Sénat les avait admises, une rupture locale des négociations et un refus du Projet de Convention.

2. Que la rupture des négociations pourrait exposer le pays à des complications et des difficultés diplomatiques.

3. Que la position de l'Etat par le maintien du *statu quo* était plus défavorable que par la Convention, tout en n'admettant pas les difficultés repoussées à Berlin. On était donc en présence d'une nouvelle situation qui a dû provoquer des soins et des débats nouveaux, les préoccupations exclusivement juridiques et financières laissées de côté.

Le Comité des Délégués a écouté à cet égard les explications du Gouvernement, et je suis autorisé à porter à la connaissance de l'Assemblée que le Gouvernement a déclaré dans le sein du Comité d'une manière précise que la question est devenue internationale.

Ce terrain, Messieurs les Députés, nous impose de la réserve dans nos explications et une grande prudence dans les résolutions que nous prendrons. Il faudra pour cette fois ne pas perdre de vue un intérêt politique de premier ordre quand nous nous prononcerons sur les modifications votées par le Sénat.

Rendons-nous compte de ces modifications qui n'ont pas toutes la même importance.

1. A cause du retard apporté au vote du Projet au delà des prévisions, la date du 1er Mars a été remplacée par celle du 1er Mai, comme terme fixé pour que la majorité se présente pour le changement des actionnaires; la modification a été faite dans tous les Articles où est maintenue la susdite date, à savoir, dans l'Article 3, alinéas 1, 2, et 3, dans les Articles 4, 5, 12, et 19; dans l'Article 22 où est prévu le temps pendant lequel les obligations légalement contractées par les organes de la Société, seront respectées par la nouvelle Direction dans le cas prévu dans cet Article; la réglementation se fera à partir du 1er Janvier d'après les instructions données par le Ministre des Travaux Publics Roumains.

2. La réduction de l'Article 9 a été modifiée comme il suit: "Il est bien entendu que, conformément à l'Article 8 de la Loi Spéciale, les détenteurs d'obligations 6 pour cent sans exception, n'ont pas le droit d'empêcher, d'aucune manière, le mode d'exploitation de la ligne, par l'Etat Roumain."

[L'Article 9 prescrit que l'exploitation des lignes seule ne peut être empêchée par cette disposition, tous les droits obligatoires sont maintenus dans toute leur étendue et surtout les droits existant actuellement des détenteurs d'obligations 6 pour cent de la Société.]

3. Le Sénat a rétabli l'Article 28 de la Convention conformément au Projet primitif, d'après lequel le Gouvernement aura à demander, par la direction Princière, à une nouvelle assemblée générale d'actionnaires, le transfert du siége de la Société. En conséquence, et conséquemment à cette idée, à réintégrer toutes les dispositions des Statuts qui étaient conformes à l'Article 28, et surtout aux sections 2, 21, 22, 23, 27, 37, ainsi que la première réduction de l'Article 1er de la Convention Financière.

Le Comité des Délégués, en présence du refus des actionnaires, d'admettre le transfert immédiat du siége de la Société, croit que persister à demander ce transfert serait causer un dommage plus grand aux intérêts de l'Etat que de rompre les négociations. En vérité la position actuelle vis-à-vis de la Société, difficile pour l'Etat, ruineuse pour le Trésor et pour le commerce du pays, ne peut plus se tolérer. Il est à regretter que le transfert immédiat ne puis se s'effectuer, mais des informations récentes et autorisées nous permettent de croire qu'elle pourra être effectuée dans un temps très-rapproché, sans aucun empêchement, et ainsi tous les avantages cherchés par la modification votée par la Chambre seront complétement assurés à l'Etat Roumain. Pour renoncer à l'amendement voté à cet égard, le Comité a dû peser, avec toute la gravité nécessaire, autant la situation actuelle des chemins de fer, mise en

présence de la situation future, que les conséquences politiques de son refus. Le résultat des délibérations à ce sujet est qu'il s'accorde avec le vote du Sénat.

Les termes primitifs pour les convocations des assemblées de quinze jours, trois semaines, et deux mois, pour huit jours, quatre semaines, et un mois, ont été rétablis. Cette modification ne mérite pas de soulever de difficultés.

Enfin, l'Article 6 de la Loi a été modifié comme suit :—

"Un mois au plus après la mise en vigueur de la Convention sus-mentionnée, le Gouvernement est obligé de prendre les mesures nécessaires pour le transfert du siége de la Société à Bucarest."

[Tout le monde comprend qu'il s'agit ici, pour le Gouvernement d'obligations d'ordre intérieur, et que l'Article 6 de la Loi ne change en rien ses rapports envers la Société et les dispositions comprises dans l'Article 28 de la Convention.]

Voilà, Messieurs les Députés, les modifications apportées par le Sénat au Projet que vous avez voté.

Comme vous voyez, Messieurs les Députés, vos désirs sont satisfaits. Le seule question, nous pouvons le dire, celle du transfert immédiat du siége de la Société, a reçu une modification. Prenant en considération qu'elle sera obtenue par la seconde assemblée, et eu égard surtout à l'utilité politique de cette décision, le Comité des Délégués vous prie d'admettre les modifications votées par le Sénat.

Le Rapporteur,
(Signé) M. PHEREKYDE.

No. 107.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 24. Secret.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, February 2, 1880.*

I HAVE reason to believe, from trustworthy information which has reached me, that Prince Gortchacow has urged General Ghika, the Roumanian Minister, to recommend to his Government the advisableness of voluntarily renouncing their claim to Arab-Tabia, and that, unless they do this, this country can never expect to be on good terms with Russia again, and may soon have occasion to repent of its course.

This proceeding is naturally kept very secret here, and I must beg likewise that it should be treated in a similar manner by Her Majesty's Government out of consideration for my informant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 108.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 25.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, February 2, 1880.*

IT may be interesting to your Lordship to hear something of the views of the Roumanian Boyards who would naturally succeed to office were the Government of M. Bratiano to fall.

A few days ago I had some conversation with one of these gentlemen, one of the largest and wealthiest landowners, and known for the moderation of his views; and I made some observations to him respecting the inconvenience which would probably result to his country if the anger of Germany were unnecessarily provoked by the rejection of the Railway Bill, and if Roumania should happen to continue unrecognized in the midst of any future Eastern convulsions.

He assured me that this caused him and his party no anxiety whatever, that they anticipated a brilliant future for their country, and that it was not the business of the Opposition to ward off impending anger on the part of foreign Powers; this was the task of the Government of the day; probably if they were in office they might have to satisfy the exactions of Germany in some similar mode, but whilst in opposition they had only to consider that the proposed measure was extremely unpopular and how to embarrass Ministers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 109.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 26. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, February 3, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that persons in authority here have spoken to me on several occasions expressing regret and even uneasiness at the indifference shown by the Powers in not exacting the fulfilment of the Treaty of Berlin with regard to the demolition of the Bulgarian fortresses stipulated by Article XI.

Quite recently, in the Hungarian Delegation, Baron Haymerle and Count Andrassy are reported as having, to some extent, excused the remissness of the new Principality in this matter on the score of expense, and likewise by quoting the example of Luxemburg.

Russia possesses, through her influence in Bulgaria, a powerful weapon of coercion on Roumania as long as these fortresses continue to exist.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 110.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 63. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February 2, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 52 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. de Radowitz called on me this evening to tell me that he had communicated what I had said to him on the subject of the recognition of the independence of Roumania to Prince Bismarck, and that his Highness was now prepared to take the question into consideration.

Prince Bismarck, he said, wished to know your Lordship's views on the subject. As far as he was personally concerned, his Highness was willing to leave the initiation to the French Government, who seemed anxious to take the lead in the matter, as soon as the Austrian Government had invited the Governments of England, France, and Germany to consider whether the Roumanian Government had really done all in their power to carry out the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin in regard to the emancipation of the Jews in Roumania.

I thanked M. de Radowitz, and said I would telegraph to your Lordship and let him know the intentions of Her Majesty's Government as soon as I received your Lordship's reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 111.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 65. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February 5, 1880.*

I COMMUNICATED the substance of your Lordship's message yesterday to M. de Radowitz, and told him that Her Majesty's Government were ready to recognize the independence of Roumania as soon as the Governments of Germany and of France were prepared to do the same. Delay, I said, tended only to favour Russian intrigues and to encourage the Separatist movement that was growing up in Moldavia.

M. de Radowitz called to-day to say that Prince Bismarck shared your Lordship's opinion, and was equally ready to adhere to any agreement your Lordship might come to with the French Government on the subject.

His Highness understood that both the Austrian and the French Governments

were already in communication with Her Majesty's Government to concert the best mode of proceeding.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 112.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 66.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February 6, 1880.*

IN obedience to your Lordship's instruction No. 14 of the 21st ultimo, I have spoken to M. de Radowitz on the subject of the increase of taxation in the Lebanon suggested by Sir Henry Layard, and begged of him to let me know what view the German Government is disposed to take of this matter.

M. de Radowitz said he must reserve his opinion on the subject until he could submit it to the Prince Chancellor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 113.

Sir J. Lumley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 17.)
My Lord, *Brussels, February 8, 1880.*

I TOOK an opportunity yesterday of asking Baron Lambermont what steps the Belgian Government had taken with reference to the recognition of Roumania. His Excellency said that in this case, as in similar cases—for instance, in 1848 and 1852—the Belgian Government, having in mind the peculiar character of its neutrality, had abstained from taking any initiative in the matter, although in this particular case very great pressure had been naturally employed to induce it to recognize the Roumanian Government, in consequence of the near relationship existing between the Belgian Royal Family and the Prince of Roumania. The attitude of the Belgian Government, he said, was that of expectancy on the decision that would be taken by Great Britain, France, and Germany; that decision, there was reason to believe, would shortly be announced as favourable to the recognition of Roumania, when the Belgian Government would immediately send a Minister to Bucharest, having selected for that post M. Jooris, who had formerly been their Agent in Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. SAVILE LUMLEY.

No. 114.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9.)

(No. 99.)
My Lord, *Paris, February 7, 1880.*

I SENT this morning to M. de Freycinet a paraphrase of your Lordship's telegram No. 21 of yesterday on the subject of the recognition of Roumania.

I saw M. de Freycinet in the afternoon, and he told me that he had prepared a draft of a note to be addressed by the Representatives of France, England, and Germany at Bucharest to the Roumanian Government. He proceeded to put a copy of this draft into my hands, and to beg me to submit it for your Lordship's consideration, in the hope that you would concur in it.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of it herewith.

M. de Freycinet added that he should communicate the draft at once to the German Ambassador also, with a view to obtaining the concurrence in it of the German Government.

His Excellency expressed a hope that the action of the Three Powers in recognizing Roumania would thus be made identical.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 114.

Draft of Note to Roumanian Government.

LE Soussigné, gérant l'Agence et Consulat-Général de France à Bucarest, a reçu l'ordre d'adresser, au nom du Gouvernement de la République Française, à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Roumanie, la communication suivante:—

Le Gouvernement de la République a été informé, par les soins de l'Agent de son Altesse le Prince de Roumanie à Paris, de la promulgation, sous la date du 25 Octobre, 1879, d'une loi votée par les Chambres de Révision de la Principauté, et destinée à mettre le texte de la Constitution Roumaine en accord avec les stipulations insérées dans l'Article XLIV du Traité de Berlin.

Le Gouvernement de la République ne saurait considérer comme répondant entièrement aux vues qui ont dirigé les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, les dispositions constitutionnelles nouvelles dont il lui a été donné connaissance et, en particulier, celles d'où résulte pour les personnes de rite non Chrétien, domiciliées en Roumanie, n'appartenant d'ailleurs à aucune nationalité étrangère, la nécessité de se soumettre aux formalités d'une naturalisation individuelle.

Toutefois, confiant dans la volonté du Gouvernement Princier de se rapprocher de plus en plus, dans l'application de ces dispositions, de la pensée libérale dont s'étaient inspirées les Puissances, et prenant acte des assurances formelles qui lui ont été transmises à cet effet, le Gouvernement de la République, afin de donner à la nation Roumaine un témoignage de ses sentiments d'amitié, a décidé de reconnaître, sans plus de retard, la Principauté de Roumanie comme Etat Indépendant. En conséquence, le Gouvernement de la République Française se déclare prêt à entrer en relations diplomatiques régulières avec le Gouvernement Princier.

Le Soussigné, en donnant avis à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la résolution adoptée par son Gouvernement, a l'honneur, &c.

No. 115.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9, 9 A.M.)

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 8, 1880, 11·52 P.M.*

I HAVE received following from Mr. Blunt:—

"I do not think that conditions are favourable to a fresh inquiry into Ogle's case, the Province of Thessaly not being in its normal condition, and I doubt if witnesses would willingly come forward.

"The raking up of this case at present would, I think, increase agitation and feeling."

No. 116.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9, 11·40 A.M.)

(No. 8. Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, February 9, 1880, 7 A.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 7th February, should the French Government be so ill-advised as to reopen Jewish question in Roumania at this juncture, they would be assuming a great responsibility, as probably feelings would be aroused of which the consequences might be very serious. The course recommended by your Lordship is the only practicable one, combining proper regard for Treaty rights with due appreciation of actual local difficulties.

No. 117.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 9, 1880.*

FRENCH Ambassador states that French Government learns that Porte would consent to exchange of territory with Montenegro by which latter would abandon Gusinjé and Plava, and would receive frontier starting from Gulf Kastrati, on Lake of Scutari, following crest of mountains beyond unnamed Catholic districts, joining River Zem near Cerci, and running along northern arm of that stream.

He says Italy and Austria would support scheme, and Prince Nicholas would accept it in principle with some reservations, if invited by the Powers.

French Government disposed to support it if Powers agree, considering that Montenegro would not benefit by annexation of hostile populations of Gusinjé and Plava, and that position of Podgoritza would be improved.

We have said, in reply, that we think Austria is so closely interested that her concurrence is essential, but that if she is satisfied, we shall be willing to support plan.

No. 118.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 9, 1880.*

RUSSIAN Government withdraw proposal that Acts completed by Frontier Commissions should be ratified by Ambassadors at Constantinople, and supports proposal now made by Porte that those Acts should be at once confirmed by exchange of notes between Cabinets. How does Austrian Government propose to reply to this proposal?

No. 119.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 9, 7·15 P.M.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February 9, 1880.*

I HAVE sent following to Constantinople:—

"According to information received from Cettinjé by the Austrian Government, there appears to be great discrepancy between the line of frontier understood to have been proposed by Turkey and that on which Prince would be disposed to accept a compromise. Prince also asks for a pecuniary indemnity, and for a guarantee by the Powers.

"Austrian Government consider that as the Prince possesses certain rights by Treaty, he is entitled to fix the conditions upon which he will abandon them, but that if these do not suit Porte it will be necessary to fall back upon the Treaty itself.

"They do not know what sort of guarantee is asked for, and seem too little disposed to give any.

"If the Porte is willing to give a pecuniary indemnity the Austrians will not object, but they will not, I think, use pressure for the adoption of anything except Treaty arrangement."

No. 120.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.**

(No. 46.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 9, 1880.*

I TRANSMIT herewith to your Excellency copy of a telegram communicated to me by the French Ambassador respecting the suggested compromise of the Gusinjé Boundary question, and of a note which has been addressed to his Excellency in reply.

The substance of this correspondence has been telegraphed to you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* Also to Sir A. H. Layard.

No. 121.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 54.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 9, 1880.*

YOUR Excellency will see, from the despatch from Lord Dufferin of which a copy is inclosed,* that the Russian Government no longer proposes that the Delimitation Acts which have been completed by the Frontier Commissions whose tasks are concluded should be ratified by the Ambassadors at Constantinople, but supports the proposition which has been made to it by the Porte that they should be confirmed by an exchange of notes between the Powers, which proposition was also made to Her Majesty's Government in the note from Musurus Pasha of the 17th ultimo, a copy of which has been furnished to your Excellency.

I have requested you by telegraph to inform me what reply the Austro-Hungarian Government intend to return to this proposal.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 122.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 95.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 9, 1880.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 95 of the 20th ultimo, relative to the new Code of Criminal and Civil Laws recently communicated by the Porte to the foreign Missions at Constantinople, together with a new order of judicial procedure.

Your Excellency informs me that at a meeting of the Heads of Missions summoned by you to discuss the question and to decide on the course to be pursued, it was agreed unanimously that a separate and similar representation should be made by yourself and your colleagues against the application of the new laws and regulations before they could be fully examined and reported upon.

I have to inform your Excellency that I approve your action in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 123.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 96.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 9, 1880.*

I HAVE to state to you that the instructions given by your Excellency to Mr. Consul Dennis, and reported in your despatch No. 80 of the 17th ultimo, as to his action with regard to the new Civil Laws promulgated by the Porte, are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 124.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 124.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February 9, 1880.*

I INCLOSE, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a telegram from the French Government to Admiral Pothuau relative to the Gusinjé-Plava question, which the French Ambassador has communicated to me,† together with a copy of the note which I addressed to his Excellency in reply.‡

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 13. † Extract from telegram, February 7, 1880. ‡ No. 125.

No. 125.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Admiral Pothuau.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, February* 9, 1880.

YOUR Excellency was so good as to communicate to me yesterday an extract of a telegram from the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating the terms upon which it is understood that the Porte would be disposed to settle, by pacific means, the question of Gusinjé-Plava, and adding that the Governments of Italy and Austria-Hungary would support the proposal in question, while the Prince of Montenegro, though unwilling to take any initiative, would also accept it in principle.

With reference to the desire expressed by the French Government to learn the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on this subject, I have the honour to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government consider that the Government of Austria-Hungary is so closely interested in the question that its concurrence is of essential importance. If, therefore, its consent is given to the arrangement proposed, Her Majesty's Government will willingly support it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 126.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 10, 1880.

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs has drafted identic note for three Powers, in which we concur. I have instructed White to act with French and German Representatives.

No. 127.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 10, 1880, 5·30 P.M.

ROUMANIAN independence: I agree to note of French Minister for Foreign Affairs; I have instructed Mr. White to act in concert with French and German Representatives.

No. 128.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 10, 1880, 6·15 P.M.

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs has drafted identic note in which three Western Powers will recognize Roumania. We have concurred, and I believe Germany will concur also. It will be sent to you by next messenger.

You should act identically with your French and German colleagues.

No. 129.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 10, 6·30 P.M.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 10, 1880.

I HAVE communicated following to Constantinople:—

"With respect to guarantee which Prince of Montenegro asks from the Powers relative to frontier compromise, I have suggested that they might go the length of promising that their Commissioners should be instructed to lay down a frontier that will fairly carry out the agreement that may be come to between the Porte and Montenegro."

No. 130.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 10, 6·35 P.M.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 10, 1880.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 18, Austrian Government have informed the Turkish Ambassador that if other Powers agree they have no objection to the proposal that the Acts completed by Frontier Commissions should be at once confirmed by an exchange of notes between Cabinets.

The tracing of Dobrudscha frontier not being completed, it would not be included among those to be thus ratified.

No. 131.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 44.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 10, 1880.

THE French Minister for Foreign Affairs has drafted an identic note by which he proposes that England, France, and Germany should notify their recognition of the independence of Roumania. Your Excellency will find a copy of the draft inclosed in the despatch from Lord Lyons of which a copy is sent herewith.* Her Majesty's Government have expressed their concurrence in the terms of the draft, which will, it is hoped, also meet with the approval of the German Government. Instructions have been sent to Her Majesty's Representative at Bucharest directing him to act identically with his French and German colleagues as soon as they receive orders from their Governments to present the note.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 132.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Ashburnham.

(No. 15. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 10, 1880.

WITH reference to Mr. Palgrave's despatch No. 210 of the 4th November last, relative to the desire of the Bulgarian Government to be supplied with Protocols and Maps of the Servian Frontier Commission, and to your despatches Nos. 5 and 9 of the 7th and 15th ultimo on the same subject, I transmit to you herewith a spare set of these Protocols and maps, which you are authorized to deliver unofficially to the Bulgarian Government for their information.

The communication must be considered as unofficial, inasmuch as the frontier-line traced by the Commission has not yet received the ratification of the Powers, and it rests rather with the Porte than with any one of the other Powers to bring it to the knowledge of the Government of the Principality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 133.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 127.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 10, 1880.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 99 of the 7th instant, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government agree to M. de Freycinet's note relative to the question of the recognition of Roumanian independence, and that I have given instructions to Her Majesty's Representative at Bucharest to act in concert with his French and German colleagues in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 114.

No. 134.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 12.)
Foreign Office, February 10, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Paris has forwarded to me the draft of an identic note to be presented to the Roumanian Government on behalf of France, Germany, and Great Britain, intimating the recognition by those Powers of the independence of the Principality as constituted under the Treaty of Berlin.

A copy of Lord Lyons' despatch, in which the draft of this note is inclosed, is forwarded herewith for your information.

I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government are ready to adopt the form proposed by M. de Freycinet for making this communication to the Government of Prince Charles, and that it is believed that the Government of Germany is also ready to join.

I have consequently to instruct you to act identically with your colleagues of France and Germany in regard to the presentation to the Roumanian Government of the note in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 135.

The Marquis of Salisbury to M. Ressman.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,
Foreign Office, February 10, 1880.

IN reply to the inquiry made by you yesterday as to what were the views entertained by Her Majesty's Government respecting the proposed exchange of territory between Turkey and Montenegro, I have the honour to state to you that Her Majesty's Government consider that the Government of Austria-Hungary is so closely interested in the question that its concurrence is of essential importance. If, therefore, its consent is given to the arrangement proposed, Her Majesty's Government will willingly support it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 136.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 11, 9 A.M.)

(No 60.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, February 10, 1880, 11·20 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 58, Porte has dismissed Governor of Alexandretta, and undertakes to prosecute the parties who are accused of having committed irregularities, and to punish them if found guilty.

French Ambassador is satisfied.

No. 137.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 11, 12·45 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
Athens, February 11, 1880, 11·30 A.M.

GREEK Minister at Constantinople telegraphs to his Government that the British Prime Minister has proposed that International Commission should be named to trace new frontier, on the basis of Protocol of Berlin, and that this proposal had been communicated to the French Government unofficially.

I told Minister for Foreign Affairs that I had no information on the subject.

No. 138.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 11, 6·45 P.M.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.)
Paris, February 11, 1880, 4·55 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram No. 27, about Roumanian independence, Germany has also accepted the French note, and the French Minister for Foreign Affairs proposes that each of the Agents of the three Powers at Bucharest shall be instructed to date it the 20th February, and to deliver it on that day. He is anxious to know as soon as possible whether Her Majesty's Government agree to that date.

Roumanian Agent came to me to urge, in the name of his Government, that the recognition should not be accompanied by any communication of the kind. I did not give him any encouragement.

No. 139.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Károlyi.

M. l'Ambassadeur,
Foreign Office, February 11, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to return herewith to your Excellency the despatches from Baron Haymerle on the subject of the recognition of the independence of Roumania, which you have been good enough to communicate to me, and to request that you will inform him that Her Majesty's Government have laid great stress upon the advice given by the Austro-Hungarian Government. They have given full weight to the arguments by which Baron Haymerle supported his request that they would no longer defer the recognition, and, admitting the force of such considerations as those upon which he has dwelt, they have decided to join France and Germany in instructing their Representative at Bucharest to inform the Roumanian Government that they recognize the independence of the Principality.

The French Minister for Foreign Affairs has prepared the draft of an identic note to be presented at Bucharest, in which Her Majesty's Government have expressed their concurrence. I have the honour to inclose a copy of this draft, and to add that instructions have been sent to Her Majesty's Representative at that capital to act identically with his French and German colleagues respecting the presentation, if the latter should be informed, as there is reason to hope he will be, of the concurrence of his Government in the terms of this note.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 140.

Acting Consul Marengo to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 2.)
My Lord,
Trébizonde, le 20 *Janvier*, 1880.

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Seigneurie que le 18 courant est arrivé dans notre port le transport Ottoman de l'Etat, "Esseri Djédid," ayant à son bord 150 rédifs licenciés, et 120 caisses munitions et bagages militaires qui ont été déposés dans les magasins militaires.

Les rédifs ont été renvoyés dans leur foyers le lendemain même de leur arrivée. "L'Esseri Djédid" avait à son départ de Constantinople 1,200 rédifs licenciés, dont les 1,050 ont été débarqués dans les diverses échelles du littoral.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) R. MARENGO.

No. 141.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 12.)

(No. 115. Confidential.)

Paris, February 11, 1880.

My Lord,

M. DE FREYCINET made me acquainted this afternoon with the substance of reports which he had received from Admiral Pothuau respecting communications which the Admiral had had with your Lordship and the Earl of Beaconsfield on the subject of the Greek frontier question. These reports appeared to be in accordance with the communication on the subject to Admiral Pothuau recorded in your Lordship's despatch to me No. 122 of the 7th instant.

M. de Freycinet said that the answer to be made by the French Government had not yet been positively decided upon, but that he would tell me confidentially that it would probably be much to the following effect.

The French Government would express their regret at the delay which must be the result of referring the question to a Special Commission in the manner proposed by your Lordship. Rather, however, than place themselves in disaccord with Her Majesty's Government, they would agree to the Commission. They would express the hope that it would be agreed to by the other Powers also, and they would urge that it should be appointed and be set to work immediately. They would wish, for their own part, to nominate two Commissioners: one to be a Staff officer and the other a Diplomatist. They would lay particular stress upon the necessity of its being irrevocably agreed that all the Powers should be bound by the decisions of the majority of the Commissioners.

In conclusion, M. de Freycinet reminded me that I must not treat this as an answer definitively settled.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 142.

The Baron de Haymerle to Count Kálnoky.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Károlyi, February 12.)

(Traduction.)

(Confidentielle.)

Vienne, le 4 Février, 1880.

EN autorisant votre Excellence à donner lecture à M. de Giers de ma dépêche précédente, portant la même date, voire à en laisser copie entre ses mains (*loco lectura*), s'il en exprime le désir, je crois devoir vous signaler d'une façon confidentielle une considération ultérieure qui nous confirme dans la résolution de ne pas accéder à la proposition d'une discussion minutieuse avec le Délégué de Russie au sujet de la délimitation Monténégrine.

La situation, telle qu'elle résulte de l'ensemble des événements des dernières années, impliquerait la plaidoirie du Délégué Russe, dans toutes les questions qui pourraient surgir, à l'appui des prétentions Monténégrines quelque vastes qu'elles fussent. Nous autres, par contre, serions placés le plus souvent dans la nécessité d'avoir à réagir contre ces dernières, et par-là évidemment d'endosser l'apparence de nous faire les avocats de la Porte.

Il ne pourrait nous convenir ni d'assumer cette responsabilité envers la Porte, ni d'être considérés comme adversaires du Monténégro.

A M. Novikow, envers lequel je me suis énoncé dans le sens de la dépêche précédente, je n'ai pas cru devoir dissimuler non plus cet argument confidentiel, et je remets de même à votre Excellence de s'en servir d'une façon analogue.

En nous déchargeant disposés à un échange d'idées nous voudrions voir, en revanche, le Gouvernement Russe ne pas insister davantage sur la mission du Colonel Kaulbars, et j'invite votre Excellence à concourir à ce but. Non pas que nous ayions une objection quelconque au choix de sa personne, mais parce que, d'après ce qui vient d'être dit, nous ne croyons pas pouvoir nous prêter au développement de la discussion proposée au delà de la forme d'un échange d'idées de Cabinet à Cabinet.

Recevez, &c.

Annex 1.

The Baron de Haymerle to Count Kálnoky.

Vienne, le 4 Février, 1880.

J'ai l'honneur de transmettre à votre Excellence la copie d'une communication qui m'a été faite par M. Novikow et dans laquelle le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg expose les considérations qui lui sont suggérées par les circonstances dans lesquelles la Commission de Délimitation pour le Monténégro aura à reprendre ses travaux le printemps prochain.

Préoccupé des difficultés que la Commission a rencontrées et qui l'ont obligée à suspendre ses délibérations sans avoir donné de solution à une grande partie des questions qu'elle était appelée à résoudre, le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie nous propose de nous entendre directement avec lui afin de préparer l'aplanissement des dissentiments qui se sont manifestés au sein de la Commission.

Le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg fait valoir avec raison l'intérêt particulier que nous avons comme voisins de la Montagne Noire, de voir enfin s'établir un ordre de choses stable et régulier près de nos frontières. Nous le désirons tout autant pour le Monténégro lui-même dont la situation actuelle ne laisse pas que de nous préoccuper. Désireux de prévenir tout ce qui pourrait aggraver un état de choses déjà assez compliqué par lui-même, nous contribuerons au contraire, autant qu'il est en notre pouvoir, à faire disparaître les causes de discorde. En agissant ainsi, nous avons la conviction, et nous la voyons confirmée par l'obligeante communication de M. Novikow, de nous trouver en harmonie avec les intentions du Cabinet Impérial de Russie comme avec celles des autres Puissances de l'Europe.

De même que le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg, nous ne poursuivons pas d'autre but, dans toutes les questions qui concernent l'Orient, que le maintien de l'ordre et de la tranquillité, conformément aux principes élaborés par le Congrès de Berlin. Nous sommes donc tout disposés à entrer, avec le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg, en un échange confidentiel d'idées sur les questions au sujet desquelles la Commission pour la démarcation du Monténégro n'a pas réussi à tomber d'accord.

Cependant, tout en adhérant à l'idée qui a inspiré la proposition du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie, je dois faire observer qu'un travail complet de délimitation, tel qu'il semble l'avoir en vue, et qui devrait être confié à des Délégués spéciaux de nos deux Gouvernements, nous paraît offrir des difficultés particulières. Les détails d'une démarcation embrassent une foule d'éléments et d'intérêts d'un caractère essentiellement local, ainsi que de questions techniques, qui ne peuvent être étudiés avec utilité, ou résolus, que sur les lieux mêmes.

Une considération d'une autre nature nous engage également à ne pas étendre le travail préparatoire qu'on nous propose, au delà des limites d'un échange de vues sur les questions principales que la Commission n'a pas réussi à résoudre. Par sa proposition le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg a pris une initiative qui intéresse toutes les Puissances qui interviennent à l'œuvre de la délimitation Monténégrine. En arrêtant d'avance tout un tracé de frontières pour la zone en question, nous pourrions avoir l'air de vouloir préjuger en quelque sorte aux résolutions de la Commission Européenne.

Je prie votre Excellence de remercier le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg de la démarche dont il a chargé M. Novikow et au caractère amical de laquelle nous sommes très-sensibles. Veuillez l'assurer en même temps que nous sommes tout disposés à nous expliquer avec lui, sur les questions que la Commission de Délimitation a laissées en suspens. Nous espérons qu'il reconnaîtra comme fondées les considérations que je viens d'exposer et qu'il s'associera à notre manière de voir.

Recevez, &c.

Annex 2.

M. de Giers to M. de Novikow.

(Extrait.)

St. Pétersbourg, le 21 Décembre, 1879. / 2 Janvier, 1880.

Depuis que la Commission de la délimitation du Monténégro s'est séparée sans être arrivée à des résultats satisfaisants et pratiques, l'attention du Ministère Impérial n'a pas cessé de se porter sur cette question.

Les inexactitudes qui s'étaient glissées dans le Traité de Berlin et les défauts de la carte prise par le Congrès pour base de ses travaux sont devenus autant de sujets de

désunion et de malentendus au sein de la Commission susmentionnée. Des obstacles matériels se sont ajoutés à ces difficultés.

Les Commissaires se sont divisés sur la plupart des questions soumises à leur délibération. Des tracés différents ont été proposés dont aucun n'a réuni l'unanimité des suffrages.

Les Délégués Européens ont enfin suspendu leur travail à l'approche de la mauvaise saison, en déférant à la décision des Puissances les plus importantes des contestations qui se sont élevées entre eux.

Il nous semble urgent de préparer l'aplanissement de ces regrettables dissentiments avant que la Commission ne se réunisse de nouveau au commencement du printemps prochain.

La situation pleine de difficultés dans laquelle le Monténégro se trouve placé actuellement, ses rapports précaires avec la Porte et les conflits qui menacent d'éclater sur les frontières semblent imposer doublement ce devoir à l'Europe. Il ne peut, en effet, entrer dans les vues des Cabinets d'aggraver un état de choses déjà suffisamment gros de complications par lui-même, en laissant subsister des causes de discordes qu'il dépend d'eux d'écarter. Le Traité de Berlin, d'ailleurs, ne saurait rester en souffrance dans une de ses clauses essentielles relativement à la Montagne Noire sans qu'il en résulte des inconvénients d'une portée incontestable.

Notre auguste Maître ne poursuit dans la question Monténégrine, comme dans toutes celles qui ont trait à la nouvelle configuration de l'Orient, que le maintien de l'ordre et de la tranquillité, basés sur l'application des principes élaborés par le Congrès de Berlin.

Aucune autre Puissance plus que l'Autriche-Hongrie ne nous semble intéressée à nous seconder dans cette tâche. Sa position géographique la rend en quelque sorte solidaire de la pacification définitive d'une grande partie de la Péninsule Balcanique. Sa qualité de Puissance limitrophe de la Montagne Noire ne saurait la laisser indifférente au réglement des affaires qui concernent l'établissement d'un ordre de choses stable et régulier près de ses frontières.

Nous sommes convaincus que le meilleur moyen de sortir des difficultés de la délimitation Monténégrine consisterait dans un accord à cet égard entre l'Autriche-Hongrie et nous. Dans le cas où cet accord viendrait à s'établir, l'Allemagne s'y rallierait, sans nul doute.

Si le Cabinet de Vienne entrait dans ces vues, nous serions disposés à aller au devant de ses désirs par l'envoi d'un Délégué spécial à Vienne pour débattre avec une personne de confiance, désignée par la "Staats-Kanzlei," les diverses matières se rattachant à la délimitation de la Montagne Noire. Veuillez bien, M. l'Ambassadeur, sonder à cet effet le Baron de Haymerle, et nous informer par le télégraphe du résultat de votre démarche.

Notre Délégué à la Commission Monténégrine, le Colonel de Kaulbars, serait de notre côté indiqué naturellement pour la mission susmentionnée, comme étant au courant de tout ce qui touche à la démarcation de la nouvelle frontière conformément au Traité de Berlin. Il serait muni des instructions nécessaires, ainsi que des cartes et des documents indispensables, pour donner les éclaircissements les plus amples. Votre Excellence serait appelée à le guider de ses conseils et à le soutenir, au besoin, par son influence.

En suggérant l'idée de nous entendre directement avec le Cabinet de Vienne dans cette question, nous croyons donner une nouvelle preuve de notre sincère désir d'agir en commun avec lui dans les affaires qui intéressent les deux Gouvernements Impériaux.

La Montagne Noire a donné à l'Autriche-Hongrie plus d'un gage de ses dispositions conciliantes et de sa modération dans la crise qui a agité l'Orient pendant ces dernières années. Le Cabinet de Vienne s'est plu à le reconnaître dans maintes occasions. Nous ne doutons pas de son loyal concours pour la prompte solution des questions dont le repos et la prospérité futurs de la Principauté peuvent dépendre.

No. 143.

The Baron de Haymerle to Count Károlyi.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Károlyi, February 12.)

(Translation.)
(Extract.)

Vienna, February 7, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency copies of two despatches destined to be communicated, confidentially, to Lord Salisbury.

Your Excellency is informed of our views on the subject. We urgently desire a peaceful solution of the question concerning Gusinjé-Plava, and we had hoped that it could be attained on the basis of the Treaty of Berlin. This hope was founded on the repeated declarations of both parties immediately interested. The compromise now proposed goes beyond this prevision. Notwithstanding, we do not oppose it. The Berlin Congress attributed to the Commission of Delimitation the faculty also of modifying to a certain extent the line of frontier. The Commission itself has, however, reserved to the Cabinets the decision of several of the questions under consideration.

We have therefore no objection on principle to the new proposition. As far as it is known to us, it seems, on the contrary, to conform itself to the scheme of our own Delegate on which he founded the motion contained in Protocol No. 9 (Annex 1).

We, however, know the new Italian proposal only in its general outlines, for which we are indebted to Her Majesty's Government. We are not hitherto able to judge of the project in its whole extent, and it is, for instance, not clear for us whether the Catholic tribes of North Albania are not dealt with by it in an obnoxious manner.

If we are to recede from the ground of the Berlin Treaty, which is common to all the Powers, it seems to us that it should first be proved that an agreement is really possible on the basis of the new proposition. We now hear that Montenegro is not satisfied with the compensations offered by Turkey, but puts forward new claims. It, for instance, wishes the termination of the line of frontier from the Lake of Scutari to the sea, according to the proposals of the Russian and Montenegrin Commissaries. Moreover, a pecuniary indemnity is aimed at, which Turkey would have to pay to the Mahommedans for their property sequestrated by Montenegro.

On the other hand, the inclosed Russian communication mentions a guarantee to be given by the Powers.

If the proposed settlement has any chance of being accepted by both parties we will not oppose it, anxious as we are, by reasons both political and of humanity, that the question should be finished as soon as possible, and further bloodshed avoided.

In the case, however, of a pressure becoming necessary, or of a guarantee being expected from the Powers, we see difficulties which make the matter appear in a different light than it does according to the last intelligence received. We therefore consider it necessary for the present to maintain a certain reserve.

We strongly wish to act in accord with Great Britain in this question.

Sir H. Elliot has confidentially informed me that Sir H. Layard is instructed to have in view an agreement with our Representative on this question, and that he is particularly directed not to support a solution brought forward by Italy, and possibly objectionable to Austria-Hungary, unless in accord with us.

I beg your Excellency to transmit to Lord Salisbury my sincerest thanks, and to assure his Lordship that we consider an accord with the British Cabinet on this subject as of the highest importance.

Annex 1.

The Baron de Haymerle to Count Károlyi.

Vienne, le 7 Février, 1880.

J'ai l'honneur de transmettre à votre Excellence copie d'une communication que je viens de recevoir de M. de Fonton, et qui se réfère au compromis au sujet de l'échange de Gusinjé-Plava qui se négocie actuellement entre la Porte et le Monténégro, par l'intermédiaire de l'Italie. Le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg est prêt à adhérer au nouveau projet s'il est accepté également par les autres Cabinets.

Je vous prie, M. le Comte, de remercier M. de Giers de la communication qu'il a bien voulu nous faire et de l'assurer que nous partageons le désir que le différend soit

résolu à l'amiable. Seulement il nous est difficile de nous prononcer dès à présent sur un projet dont nous ne connaissons que les contours généraux. M. de Fonton n'ayant pas pu compléter nos informations, nous devons nous borner à une appréciation générale de la nouvelle proposition. Elle nous semble répondre, en partie du moins, aux idées qui ont servi de point de départ à M. de Lippich, lorsqu'il a formulé dans la Commission de Délimitation la motion qui forme l'Annexe Ire du Protocole No. 9.

En principe nous ne sommes donc pas contraires à un arrangement de cette nature. Seulement, avant de connaître tous les détails de la combinaison projetée et avant qu'il ne soit établi qu'un accord est réellement possible sur la base des nouvelles propositions, nous ne croyons pas pouvoir abandonner le terrain du Traité de Berlin.

Aussitôt que nous pourrons disposer d'assez d'éléments pour nous former un jugement définitif, je m'empresserai d'en informer le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg.

Recevez, &c.

Annex 2.

M. de Giers to M. de Fonton.

(Télégraphique.)

D'après les nouvelles qui nous parviennent, le Prince de Monténégro, sur l'invitation du Ministre d'Italie, a formulé des conditions d'échange du territoire de Gusinjé, qu'il accepterait si les Puissances y adhèrent et garantissent; et que l'Autriche, l'Angleterre, la France, et l'Italie appuyaient ces conditions.

Le Cabinet Impérial s'est maintenu jusqu'ici sur le terrain du Traité de Berlin, mais désire avant tout une solution amiable et adhère au compromis projeté s'il est accepté par tous les Cabinets.

Télégraphiez-nous l'opinion du Cabinet de Vienne, avec lequel désirons rester d'accord.

No. 144.

Baron Haymerle to Count Károlyi.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Károlyi, February 12.)

M. le Comte, *Vienne, le 7 Février*, 1880.

AINSI que je l'ai signalé à votre Excellence par mon télégramme d'hier, j'ai l'honneur de lui transmettre sous ce pli le projet d'une dépêche par laquelle j'ai l'intention de prendre acte des déclarations du Gouvernement Roumain, et d'exprimer l'espoir qu'il ne négligera rien pour arriver à une assimilation plus complète des Israélites.

Il serait certainement de la plus grande utilité pour la cause à laquelle les Puissances vouent un intérêt si légitime si le Cabinet de Londres voulait accompagner l'acte de reconnaissance d'une énonciation analogue.

Vous êtes prié, M. le Comte, de porter le contenu de cette dépêche à la connaissance du Cabinet auprès duquel vous avez l'honneur d'être accrédité, et de nous mander l'accueil que notre proposition y aura trouvé.

Recevez, &c.

(Signé) HAYMERLE.

Inclosure in No. 144.

Draft of Despatch to Comte Hoyos.

Vienne, le 7 Février, 1880.

LE Gouvernement Impérial et Royal, quoiqu'il ait par la nomination d'un Ministre Plénipotentiaire et Envoyé Extraordinaire à Bucarest, reconnu de fait l'indépendance de la Roumanie, ne saurait pourtant en sa qualité de Puissance Signataire du Traité de Berlin se soustraire à l'obligation de veiller à ce que les principes établis par l'Article XLIV de ce Traité soient réalisés en Roumanie.

Vous savez, M. le Comte, que nous n'avons pas cessé de vouer notre attention toute particulière aux efforts faits par le Gouvernement Roumain pour accomplir la tâche que lui a été imposée, et que nous avons notamment examiné avec le plus vif

intérêt la loi sur la révision de l'Article 7 de la Constitution Roumaine, votée par les Chambres de Bucarest, et portée par une Circulaire de M. Boerescо, en date du $\frac{14}{26}$ Octobre dernier, à la connaissance des Puissances.

Nous admettons volontiers que cette loi ainsi que les votes qui l'ont suivie et par lesquelles un certain nombre d'Israélites a été assimilé aux citoyens Roumains, témoignent de la sérieuse intention du Gouvernement Princier de conformer de plus en plus la législation du pays au principe de l'égalité des droits et de la liberté des cultes, principe universellement reconnu et nouvellement consacré par le Traité de Berlin. Guidés par une sincère sympathie pour la nation Roumaine nous sommes tout disposés à tenir compte des difficultés de nature sociale et politique qui s'opposeraient peut-être en ce moment encore à une application plus ample de ce grand principe.

Mais d'autre part, nous ne saurions méconnaître que pour mieux répondre aux intentions qui ont guidé les Puissances au Congrès de Berlin, il est indispensable qu'une interprétation large et une administration libérale viennent compléter la loi sur la révision dans son application pratique. En prenant acte des déclarations contenues dans la Circulaire de M. Boerescо du $\frac{14}{26}$ Octobre, et dans celle du Novembre, 1879, nous nous croyons fondés à espérer que le Gouvernement de Son Altesse Royale le Prince Charles ne voudra pas considérer sa tâche comme désormais accomplis, mais qu'il continuera à faire tout son possible pour satisfaire de plus en plus aux principes dont l'Article XLIV du Traité de Berlin est l'expression. Nous espérons également que les pouvoirs organiques de la Roumanie, inspirés et guidés par les efforts éclairés du Gouvernement, se trouveront d'accord pour assurer le respect du principe qui vient d'être introduit dans la Constitution, et qu'ils en poursuivront l'application pour arriver ainsi graduellement à l'assimilation générale des Israélites aux autres habitants de la Principauté.

En attendant, nous croyons pouvoir compter sur ce que les Israélites résidant en Roumanie y jouiront au point de vue du droit civil privé d'une position juridique assurée, et que tous les étrangers appartenant d'une nationalité déterminée seront traités sur un pied de parfaite égalité.

Veuillez, M. le Comte, communiquer ces considérations à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères et, s'il le désire, lui laisser copie de la présente dépêche.

Recevez, &c.

No. 145.

Baron Haymerle to Count Károlyi.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Károlyi, February 12.)

M. le Comte, *Vienne, le 7 Février*, 1880.

M. DE BALATCHANO, Envoyé Extraordinaire de la Roumanie à Vienne, est venu nous demander au nom de son Gouvernement de faire une démarche amicale auprès des Cabinets de Berlin, Londres, et Paris, pour les disposer à vouloir bien ne pas différer plus longtemps de reconnaître l'indépendance de la Principauté et de consentir à nouer des relations régulières avec elle en nommant un Représentant Diplomatique Britannique à Bucarest. L'Envoyé de la Roumanie a fait valoir qu'en révisant l'Article 7 de la Constitution Roumaine et en donnant une application immédiate au principe de l'égalité religieuse par la naturalisation d'un nombre considérable d'Israélites, la Roumanie croit s'être conformée au Traité de Berlin et avoir acquis ainsi des titres à la bienveillance des Puissances Signataires de ce Traité. Appelés, ainsi que les autres Puissances, à veiller à l'application du principe contenu dans l'Article XLIV du Traité de Berlin, nous avons examiné avec le plus grand soin les communications successives du Gouverneur Roumain sur les mesures qui ont été prises pour conformer la législation du pays à ce principe.

Considérant la situation de la Roumanie et tenant compte des difficultés politiques et sociales dont le Gouverneur Princier était incontestablement entouré dans l'accomplissement de sa tâche, nous ne pouvons nous refuser à reconnaître que par la loi sur la révision de l'Article 7 de la Constitution, ainsi que par la naturalisation d'un certain nombre d'Israélites qui l'a suivie, la législation Roumaine a fait un pas important dans la bonne direction, et que le Gouvernement Princier a témoigné son intention sincère de donner satisfaction au vœu unanime de l'Europe.

Nul doute, beaucoup reste encore à faire pour que cette satisfaction puisse être considérée comme pleine et entière; toutefois nous sommes d'avis que ce but ne saurait être atteint que graduellement et par des efforts ultérieurs et constants.

Nous pensons que le Gouvernement Roumain qui, par les Circulaires de M. Boeresco du $\frac{1}{13}$ Octobre et du Novembre dernier, a promis de compléter l'œuvre commencée et de poursuivre l'application du principe nouvellement introduit dans la Constitution Roumaine, trouvera un nouvel encouragement et un précieux appui dans le fait de la reconnaissance de son indépendance et dans la présence de Représentants Diplomatiques de toutes les Puissances Signataires à Bucarest.

Animés d'une sincère sympathie pour la Roumanie nous avons par conséquent cru pouvoir faire bon accueil à sa démarche, et nous n'hésitons pas à nous adresser au Cabinet de Londres avec prière de vouloir bien prendre en bienveillante considération le désir du Gouvernement Princier.

Veuillez vous informer de l'appréciation que le contenu de cette dépêche aura rencontrée auprès du Gouvernement.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) HAYMERLE.

No. 146.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 12, 1880.

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs has drafted identic note in which three Western Powers will recognize Roumania. We have concurred, and I learn that Germany concurs also. White has been instructed to act identically with his French and German colleagues. Written instructions, inclosing copy of French draft of note, were sent to White by yesterday's messenger under flying seal through your Excellency.

No. 147.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 12, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 7. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, February* 12, 1880, 9·20 A.M.

THE Permanent Committee refuses to make contract with Director of Finance for two years more. This is the result of his having caused to be arrested an agent of the Secret Committee caught in the act of levying heavy contributions on the Bulgarian peasantry, who had complained to me.

The Vice-President of a local Committee and two other members are in prison. The Bulgarians are endeavouring to frighten the Arbitrator into letting them off, but the Director of Finance insists on strict inquiry and punishment, as the Government is entirely paralyzed by action of Secret Committees.

Unless immediately supported, the Director of Finance will again resign, giving as a reason toleration of secret organization which aims at repudiation of sovereignty of Sultan.

The Porte should declare that it will not confirm any other Director of Finance, and should make the Governor-General responsible if he yields to the Revolutionary Committee represented by Permanent Committee of the Assembly.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 148.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 12, 5 P.M.)

(No. 8. Secret and Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, February* 12, 1880, 0·30 A.M.

IN order to strengthen hands of Director of Finance, and prove revolutionary character of Secret Committees, which the Bulgarians now represent as having only benevolent object, I allowed the Director to exhibit to the Governor-General documents mentioned in my despatches Nos. 280, 306, and 331 of last year, without leaving copies or originals.

The Governor-General said he was aghast at those revelations, but as he has since shown symptoms of yielding to Bulgarians in matter of arrests made, the Director of Finance and myself doubt his loyalty.

I have suggested that, in order to avoid prosecution of a large number of Bulgarian conspirators, they should be compelled to surrender their funds—about 30,000*l.*—which should be applied to building church or university, subject to claims of peasants who have been forced to contribute.

The people will hail with joy restitution of their money and their deliverance from the Committees, which simply represent previous despotic and venal form of government.

No. 149.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 12, 5·15 P.M.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, February* 12, 1880.

OFFICER on our Refugee Committee reports that in a large Turkish ruined village, five hours distant, he found people eating and charcoal acorns [?] and empty maize-ears; women had only a linen girdle, many children naked; sick lying on bare ground without covering. About 90 deaths in one month out of 900 people; we sent supply of food and clothes, and have represented matter to Governor-General, who has dispatched a Secretary to inquire into conduct of local officials. Our Vice-President had previously taken a deputation from same village to the Secretary-General, who said they were not telling truth, and merely referred them to local Bailly. Meanwhile, several other deaths occurred from starvation and cold. There is no doubt of similar suffering in many other villages. Our funds will only last another fortnight, even for Philippopoli.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 150.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 12, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

YOURS No. 50.

You should call upon Mr. Blunt for a detailed report, to be sent home at once, of his reasons for thinking further inquiry into Ogle case undesirable at present.

No. 151.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 12, 1880, 5·40 P.M.

YOURS No. 9.

I am quite content to take 20th as the day of recognition. But has the French Minister for Foreign Affairs taken due account of the position of Austria in the matter?

I believe she wishes to appear as the originator of this happy arrangement, and has with that view prepared a note to the three Powers requesting them to recognize Roumania.

I am afraid, however, that, as usual, she is too late; but it would be a pity to hurt her feelings.

No. 152.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 67.)

Foreign Office, February 12, 1880.

Sir,

I INCLOSE to your Excellency copies of two notes from Baron Haymerle to Count Károlyi, which have been communicated to me by his Excellency. In one of them Baron Haymerle states that, in the opinion of the Austro-Hungarian Government, the Roumanian Government has, considering the difficulties of its position, given proof, by the adoption of the law revising Article 7 of the Constitution, and by the subsequent naturalization of a certain number of Jews, of its sincere intention to satisfy the wishes of Europe, and he expresses the hope that Her Majesty's Government will not defer any longer their recognition of the independence of the Principality. In the other note he incloses the draft of a despatch, in which he proposes to take act of the declaration contained in the Circulars issued by M. Boerescо in October and November, and to state that the Austro-Hungarian Government trust that Roumania will not consider its task to be accomplished by what has been done, but will steadily pursue the course upon which it has entered until the general assimilation of the Jews to the other inhabitants shall be completed. He invites Her Majesty's Government to accompany their recognition by a note couched in similar terms.

I inclose also copy of a note in which I have informed Count Károlyi that Her Majesty's Government have laid great stress upon Baron Haymerle's advice, and that, moved by such considerations as those urged by him, they have consented to the recognition, and have accepted the draft of an Identic Note, to be presented at Bucharest by the Representatives of the three Western Powers, which has been drawn up by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Your Excellency will have seen the French draft in the instructions to Mr. White, directing him to act identically with his colleagues, which has passed through your hands under flying seal. A copy of it is, however, inclosed.

Count Münster has informed me that the German Government concur in its terms, and are prepared to send instructions to that effect to the German Representative at Bucharest.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 153.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 68. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, February 12, 1880.

Sir,

COUNT KÁROLYI has communicated to me confidentially the despatches addressed by Baron de Haymerle to Count Kálnoky at St. Petersburgh, of which copies are inclosed.

They refer to an overture which has been made by the Russian Government to that of Austria-Hungary for the settlement of the disputed questions regarding the Montenegrin frontier by an engagement between the two Governments, based upon the study of the question at Vienna by Colonel de Kaulbars, the Russian Delegate on the Montenegrin Commission, and an Austrian employé, to be selected by the "Staats-Kanzlei."

The Austro-Hungarian Government, while expressing their readiness to exchange views on the subject confidentially with the Cabinet of St. Petersburgh, have declined the suggestion that the task of delimitation should be intrusted to special Delegates of the two Powers.

Baron Haymerle, in a confidential note, explains to Count Kálnoky a special reason which prevents him from acceding to the Russian proposal.

Count Károlyi observed to me that the Imperial Government had at once rejected the suggestion that Russia and Austria should, before the next meeting of the Montenegrin Commission, come to a direct understanding on all questions connected with its further deliberation, as it appeared to them that there were serious objections to a previous detailed settlement of the frontier. They had, he said, felt bound to refuse to come to a separate agreement with the Russian Cabinet on a subject which was of European interest. At the same time, they could not object on principle to an

exchange of views between the Cabinets, particularly as the decisions of the Commission itself had seemed to point to an agreement of the Cabinets among themselves.

His Excellency added that Baron Haymerle had promised to inform him of any further communications that might be made to him by the Russian Government, so as to remain in constant contact with the British Cabinet, and to secure our support in those matters which were of special interest to Austria-Hungary.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 154.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 69.)

Foreign Office, February 12, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my preceding despatch, I inclose correspondence between Baron Haymerle and Count Kálnoky, which has been communicated to me by Count Károlyi, respecting the suggested compromise of the Montenegrin Boundary question, which has been made through the intervention of Italy.

I inclose also copy of my reply to his Excellency.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 155.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Michell.

(No. 10.)

Foreign Office, February 12, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE to state to you that I approve the steps you have taken, as reported in your despatch No. 33 of the 25th ultimo, in order to induce M. Schmidt to withdraw his resignation as Director of Finance in Eastern Roumelia.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 156.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Ashburnham.

(No. 17.)

Foreign Office, February 12, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 17, Confidential, of the 27th ultimo, acquainting me with a conversation you had had with M. Natchovitz, relative to the arrival at Sophia of Midhat Pasha, the Turkish Commissioner appointed by the Porte under Article XII of the Treaty of Berlin; and I have to state to you, in reply, that I approve your language as reported in your despatch.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 157.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 135.)

Foreign Office, February 12, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram No. 9 of yesterday's date, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government are quite content to accept the 20th instant as the date upon which the recognition of Roumania shall take place.

I should be glad, however, to know whether the French Minister for Foreign Affairs has taken due account of the position of Austria in the matter. I am under the impression that she is desirous to appear as the originator of this arrangement, and that with that view the Austrian Government have prepared a note to the three

Powers requesting them to recognize the independence of Roumania. I am afraid, however, that they have delayed too long in taking this step; but it would be well to avoid, if possible, wounding the susceptibility of Austria.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 158.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Károlyi.

Foreign Office, February 12, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE the honour to express to your Excellency my cordial thanks for the communication which you have been good enough to make to me of the despatches addressed by Baron Haymerle to Count Kálnoky, respecting the compromise of the disputed Montenegrin Frontier question, which has been brought forward through the intervention of Italy.

Her Majesty's Government receive with much satisfaction the assurance that the Austro-Hungarian Government attach the highest importance to the concert of the two Cabinets on this question. They are equally impressed with the importance of such concert, and will continue to communicate freely with the Imperial Government upon all matters connected with it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 159.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 23. Political.)

Scutari, January 25, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 168, Political, of the 23rd ultimo, I have the honour to report that I ascertained whilst at Cettinjé that the Archimandrite of Belgrade, who passes as the head of the Slav Irredenta party in Servia, had been imposed upon by two needy Montenegrin Voïvodas from the district of Piperi, who had quitted their country owing to the existing distress from the failure of the crops, and who falsely represented themselves as occupying influential positions in Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 160.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 24. Political.)

Scutari, January 25, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that considerable commotion was created in this vilayet through Ali Agha, the Chief of the Police at Tirana, having availed himself a few days ago of his authority over the zaptiehs to order them to shoot Ramiz Bey, the representative of the influential family of the Beys of Tirana, and who was a young man who had received his education in Paris.

The murder occurred whilst Ramiz Bey was endeavouring to extinguish a fire which had broken out in his uncle's house, and which, it is believed, had also been brought about by the orders of the Chief of the Police.

The partisans of the Beys of Tirana and of Ali Agha were about to have recourse to reprisals and further acts of violence when, troops being dispatched from this, Ali Agha, accompanied by one of his brothers, escaped to the mountains, where he is reported to be gathering around him a band of brigands.

No importance, however, need be attached to this occurrence, as the murder of Ramiz Bey was, from a North Albanian point of view, perfectly justifiable, his father having formerly murdered Ali Agha's father. The only detail which can be considered as somewhat departing from the accepted course is the use made of the Government policemen.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 161.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 25. Political.)

Scutari, February 2, 1880.

My Lord,

FOR reasons which are hardly apparent the Mahommedans here persist in spreading reports that the Gusiniotes are supported by Austria, and they state that, after the engagement of the 8th ultimo, Ali Pasha received from Bosnia an Austrian decoration and a large sum in Austrian gold. A portion of the last is said to have reached this for the purchase of provisions and other necessaries.

It is possible that these reports have an Italian origin, as I have observed that my Italian colleague is very positive in affirming his belief in them.

It is also said that Ali Pasha, the other day, before sending to winter quarters a portion of his force, publicly declared that there was now no further danger of Gusinjé falling into the possession of Montenegro, and that if it could not remain Albanian it would, at all events, belong to a powerful nation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 162.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 19. Confidential.)

Sophia, January 28, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from Mr. Dalziel, reporting an interesting conversation between the Governors of Varna and Rustchuk and the Russian Consul, in which the latter gave his advice as to the conduct to be pursued towards foreign subjects with reference to the Capitulations, and especially with regard to the Varna Railway.

I communicated confidentially the substance of this despatch to my Austrian colleague, who informs me that the advice has been already apparently followed, at least by one of the Governors, as he heard by telegraph yesterday from Varna that the Governor had caused a case in which the Austrian Lloyd was interested to be tried by the local instead of the commercial Tribunal, and had closed a café chantant, owned by an Austrian subject, on his refusal to pay taxes illegally demanded.

Count Khevenhüller tells me that he has protested against the decision in the case of the Austrian Lloyd, and that if on inquiry the facts of the case turn out to be as reported, he shall demand the dismissal of the Governor and an indemnity for the owner of the café, to be calculated on his estimate of the losses he has incurred during the time it has been closed.

As regards the Varna Railway, I have heard some remarks, and not alone from Bulgarians, as to the rather marked way in which the Austrian Company has notified its having taken over the working of the line, which is now known as the "Kaiserliche Oesterreiche Bahn," and all the notices and bills on which are now in German.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 163.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 140.)

Constantinople, January 30, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Armenian Patriarch of Constantinople bitterly complains of the support given by the French Embassy to those who are endeavouring to bring over, by pressure or otherwise, his community and other Christian sects in the East to the Church of Rome. His Beatitude mentioned the last time he called upon me a conversation which he held on the subject with M. Fournier, who justified his policy in this respect. I have the honour to inclose translation from an Armenian newspaper of a letter relating a part of this conversation, which I have reason to believe came from His Beatitude.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 163.

Correspondence sent from Constantinople to the Armenian Journal "Méghou Hayastani," published at Tiflis, giving an Account of an Interview between M. Fournier and the Armenian Patriarch.

NOUS regrettons de dire que la nation Française, qui à toujours porté si haut le drapeau des droits imprescriptibles de l'humanité, ne s'est pas encore répentie de s'appeler la fille aînée de Rome et ne s'est pas encore fatiguée de s'ériger en champion fervent de ses droits.

L'Ambassadeur de la République, qui, avec ses idées éclairées et ses opinions libérales, avait étonné tout le monde par le rôle qu'il avait joué à l'occasion de la nomination de Mgr. Hassoun a, dit-on, eu dernièrement une divergence d'opinion avec Sa Béatitude, Mgr. Nersès.

Le cimetière national de Péra avait, du temps de l'ex-Patriarche, Mgr. Kerimian, failli être un champ de bataille par suite d'un ordre du Gouvernement, en vertu duquel cette propriété allait être de force enlevée à la nation, ordre qui est resté sans exécution, car autrement on aurait vu couler du sang.

Cette question revient aujourd'hui sur le tapis.

Les Frères Karagusian avait fait don à la nation de plusieurs milliers de livres pour la construction d'une Haute Ecole de Commerce sur une partie du terrain du susdit cimetière; l'exécution de cette œuvre charitable avait été confiée à Mgr. Nersès. Sa Béatitude qui, au milieu de ses occupations multiples, n'avait pas oublié cette question importante, a dernièrement reçu du Gouvernement Impérial l'autorisation nécessaire pour la construction de l'Ecole. Dans cet intervalle, M. Fournier fait une proposition secrète à Sa Béatitude, Mgr. Nersès, en la priant de mettre une partie (si non le tout) du terrain du dit cimetière à sa disposition pour y faire construire un couvent ou bien une Haute Ecole des Jésuites.

Il est évident que Mgr. Nersès, en gardien fidèle des propriétés de la nation, ne pouvait pas adhérer à une proposition semblable. Sa Béatitude répondit par conséquent que le terrain de ce cimetière n'étant pas sa propriété privée, elle ne pouvait en disposer à son gré; que du temps du fameux Ali Pacha, quand le Gouvernement a voulu s'emparer de ce terrain, des troubles sérieux en sont résultés, et qu'il est hors des limites de son pouvoir de disposer ou de vendre une propriété nationale à un individu ou à une communauté sans le consentement de la nation.

L'Ambassadeur étant ensuite revenu à la charge, le Patriarche réitéra l'impossibilité dans laquelle, il se trouvait d'adhérer à la demande de son Excellence. Depuis, les relations de l'Ambassade avec le Patriarchat commencèrent à se refroidir peu à peu, et la faible protection que M. Fournier accordait au Patriarchat auprès de la Sublime Porte, a complétement disparu. Ainsi, quand au sein du Congrès de Berlin, les Représentants Français défendaient la cause des Juifs de la Roumanie, et se déclaraient protecteurs des nations vouées aux atrocités, un autre Représentant de la même République suivait en Orient une ligne de conduite opposée, mettant l'intérêt de quelques milliers de Catholiques au-dessous de l'intérêt de quelques millions d'Arméniens.

Nous ne savons comment, il y a quelques jours, les relations entre le Patriarchat

et l'Ambassade sont reprises au point seulement d'une visite officiellement amicale, et Mgr. Nersès fait une visite à M. Fournier.

Soixante-dix-huit anti-Hassounistes venaient de rejoindre à cette époque l'Eglise Mère, et la presse locale et étrangère, les laïes de l'Eglise Roumaine et de l'Eglise Arménienne en faisaient encore le sujet de leurs conversations; il était donc naturel qu'un Ambassadeur de France demande à connaître la cause de cet événement et l'effet qu'il a produit sur le public en général.

Mgr. Nersès.—Je ne m'étonne pas si ceux qui ont donné avis à votre Excellence de cet événement (qui pour moi est très-significatif) ont donné une autre tournure au fait et ont altéré la vérité. Je déclare comme Patriarche des Arméniens que nos nationaux de la foi Romaine sont venus se soumettre à la juridiction de l'Eglise Mère sans aucune exhortation ni invitation de notre part, de cette Eglise dont les portes leur sont toujours ouvertes, tandis que les circonstances les avaient forcés à aller frapper à d'autres portes qui sont enfin restées implacables à leurs prières.

M. Fournier.—J'aurais désiré savoir quelles sont les différences qui existent entre votre Eglise Grégorienne et les commmunautés Romaines, et quelle est la cause de la haine qui existe entre les enfants de la même nation.

Mgr. Nersès.—L'appellation de "Grégoriens" qu'on a en Occident l'habitude d'attribuer à l'Eglise Arménienne, est sans fondement. Nous savons que ceux qui, en connaissance de cause, nous appellent "Grégoriens," ont pour but de nous présenter aux yeux du monde comme des sectaires, tandis que ceux qui sont versés dans l'histoire ecclésiastique avoueront, s'ils sont sincères, que l'Eglise Arménienne est aussi Chrétienne et aussi Apostolique que toute autre Eglise qui se déclare comme telle; car l'Eglise Arménienne prend son point de départ des Apôtres Tathée et Bartholomée, et depuis tant de siècles jusqu'à nos jours ses traditions sont restées invariables, tandis que nous voyons des innovations innombrables introduites dans d'autres Eglises Orientales et Occidentales. La différence de religion repose sur des points de très-peu d'importance, et je puis dire qu'aujourd'hui il n'y a pas un Arménien Catholique éclairé qui ne rit de cette différence et ne plaigne ceux qui sont cause de la dissension qui règne au milieu de la nation. Tandis que de l'autre côté il est impossible de trouver un ecclésiastique qui ne représente à ses coreligionnaires ces petites différences comme autant de gouffres, et considérant toute union avec notre Eglise Mère contraire à leurs intérêts, ils ne la représentent aux yeux du vulgaire que comme infisible et schismatique.

Il y a une différence essentielle entre l'Eglise Arménienne et l'Eglise de Rome, mais cette différence n'est pas dogmatique; c'est une question de principe que l'Europe avec toutes ses lumières a à peine reconnue; tandis que l'Arménie a depuis des siècles consacré ce principe par sa coutume. Cette différence est que notre Eglise n'est pas théocratique, et que les fonctionnaires de cette Eglise n'en ont pas fait leur monopole. Notre Eglise est en réalité une Eglise populaire. C'est la nation qui en a la garde, c'est elle qui la protége plus que le Catholicos, le Patriarche, ou l'Archevêque, et qui est jaloux de ses droits. C'est elle qui élit les fonctionnaires de la plus basse jusqu'à la plus haute classe. Voilà toute la différence qui existe.

La conséquence est que tout ce que l'Eglise Gallicane a eu le courage d'exiger de Rome, avait été déjà admis et conservé par l'Eglise Arménienne avec quelques différences et changements. Il est cependant regrettable que l'Eglise Arménienne n'ayant pas souvent été bien comprise, a non-seulement perdu la protection de ceux qu'elle considérait ses partisans contre ses ennemis, mais elle a souvent été victime dans les affaires politiques; je ne veux pas ici donner une énumération détaillée des situations de ce genre.

M. Fournier.—Les informations que votre Béatitude a bien voulu me donner m'ont causé une grande satisfaction et m'ont donné l'occasion de perfectionner mes notions sur la nation Arménienne. Je comprends les efforts de ceux qui cherchent à me représenter les choses sous une autre couleur, et auxquels votre Béatitude vient de faire une légère allusion. Mais je voudrais revenir à l'observation que vous avez faite et qui se rapporte au Représentant Français plus qu'à tout autre; à savoir, quelles sont les circonstances dans lesquelles nous n'avons pas pu rendre nos efforts utiles dans les limites qui nous sont tracées, à cette nation qui a un droit imprescriptible de jouir de la protection effience de l'Europe.

Mgr. Nersès.—Si le Représentant actuel de la République Française n'était pas un personnage connu en Orient comme en Occident pour ses idées de progrès, nous aurions eu moins de peine à comprendre cette faute politique. Mais quand nous voyons la République faire en France la guerre du progrès contre l'ignorance et

défendre ses droits contre tout usurpateur, nous ne pouvons, dis-je, comprendre comment elle adopte en Orient une politique si diamétralement opposée.

Le succès de l'avènement de Hassoun au Patriarchat avait ébahi tout le monde. Et quand la France en s'appropriant la question Hellénique veillait si activement à ce que cette question fut reglée, tandis que l'amour platonique même qu'elle avait pour la question Arménienne était tombé dans l'oubli, il était naturel qu'il ne se trouvât plus un Arménien tournant ses regards vers la France. Nous autres Arméniens, nous sommes en Orient un élément formant une majorité assez importante, mais nous sommes comparativement une petite nation; nous sommes pauvres par notre état économique et faible par notre situation; nous ne pouvons par conséquent distribuer des décorations ou des grades à ceux qui nous couvrent de leur protection ou qui nous obligent par les services qu'ils nous rendent; le seul prix que nous puissions y mettre est ce seul sentiment de reconnaissance que nous conservons religieusement quand même l'importance en aurait déjà disparu dans les annales des hommes d'Etat.

M. Fournier.—Je regrette que votre Béatitude me considère comme protecteur du Catholicisme et indifférent pour les intérêts des nations non Catholiques; je ne puis pas me flatter d'avoir été bien compris et connu, si votre Béatitude veut faire allusion aux ordres que le Siége de Rome m'a accordés à l'occasion de l'avènement de Mgr. Hassoun au Siége Patriarcal, car ces dignitées n'ont aucune valeur à mes yeux. Je suis un homme parfaitement libre et pensant très-librement; et par conséquent ma conscience ne me permet pas de refuser ma protection à la cause des nations opprimées et persécutées avant toute autre cause, et cela surtout en Orient, et je ne puis laisser supposer que j'aie été défenseur d'une petite minorité.

Si dans toutes les questions qui se sont présentées je n'ai pas pu utiliser l'influence de mon Gouvernement dans la forme et la mesure que votre Béatitude semble avoir désiré cela ne peut être attribué qu'à la politique de non-intervention adopté aujourd'hui par la France et non pas à ce principe même, quoique j'espère que par la disparition de certains obstacles nous pourrons desormais trouver devant nous un libre champ d'action, et c'est alors que je me ferai un devoir agréable de satisfaire aux vœux légitimes de votre Béatitude qui sont en même temps les miens.

No. 164.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 141. Confidential.)

Constantinople, January 31, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Bulgarian Exarch has arrived in Constantinople from Philippopoli, where he has of late been residing. The object of his visit to the capital is understood to be to obtain from the Porte the authority to institute Bulgarian Bishopries in Macedonia and other parts of European Turkey. The Greeks naturally view this attempt on the part of the Exarch to separate the Bulgarian speaking populations of the Orthodox faith from the Œcumenical Patriarch, and to bring them under his own control, with no little alarm, as they see in it not only a religious but a political design which, if successful, would destroy Greek influence in provinces which they still claim as their own. I have received a letter, with a statement on the subject, from the Greek Patriarch, which I have the honour to inclose. The matter is one of considerable importance, and, as His Holiness points out, if the Porte is induced to accede to the Exarch's demands considerable advance will be made towards carrying out the Treaty of San Stefano by making the greater part of Turkey in Europe Bulgarian.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 164.

Monseigneur Joachim to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidentielle.)

Le $\frac{18}{30}$ *Janvier*, 1880.

Excellence,

JE dois mille remercîements à votre Excellence de son obligeante lettre du $\frac{15}{27}$ du mois courant. Je prie maintenant votre Excellence de vouloir bien jeter un coup d'œil sur la copie ci-jointe d'un Mémoire que je viens d'adresser à la Sublime Porte

sur la demande concernant les restes de la grande question qui fut la cause principale des désastres de ce malheureux Empire. J'ai par un autre Mémoire et de vive voix constaté plus d'une fois à qui de droit l'impérieuse nécessité de régler cette question, qui est une des causes les plus essentielles de la décomposition de l'Etat. Malheureusement une fatalité pousse les choses de mal en pire. La situation de la Macédoine peut, si elle se prolonge, créer bientôt des nouvelles calamités; celle de la Thrace n'est pas meilleure. D'un autre côté, ceux qui s'intéressent à la réalisation du Traité de San Stéfano continuent leur œuvre conformément à leur but, tandis que le Gouvernement hésite et reste dans l'inertie.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien réfléchir sur le contenu de mon Mémoire et de faire ce que dans la profonde sagesse elle jugerait le plus à propos.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) JOACHIM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 164.

Memorandum.

DANS l'état où les choses en sont malheurousement arrivé au point de vue politique et dans la position ou les Bulgares se trouvent vis-à-vis du Gouvernement Ottoman, il est urgent que des mesures sages et efficaces soient aussi prises pour la question Bulgare.* Dans l'Article 35 de la Constitution l'Assemblée Nationale de la Principauté de Bulgarie reconnait dans la personne de l'Exarque le Chef de toute l'Eglise Bulgare, c'est-à-dire, le Chef Spirituel des Bulgares qui se trouvent en Bulgarie, en Roumélie Orientale, et dans les autres provinces de l'Empire Ottoman soit dans la Turquie d'Europe, soit ailleurs. Le but de cet Article de la Loi est évident; il est par conséquent nécessaire—

1. Que le Gouvernement Ottoman révoque et annule le Firman auquel l'Exarchat Bulgare doit son existence, et qu'il oblige l'Exarque de se borner dans les limites de la Principauté de Bulgarie.

2. Que toutes les affaires ecclésiastiques entre les Grecs et les Bulgares schismatiques dans les provinces de Thrace et de Macédoine qui concernent les biens des églises, des écoles, et en général toute question ecclésiastique, soit matérielle, soit morale, reste à l'état où elle se trouvait avant la dernière guerre ou à la fin de cette guerre, c'est-à-dire, qu'il soit gardé sur ces questions le *statu quo* tel qu'il existait avant ou à la fin de la guerre.

3. Puisque, conformément aux lois du Gouvernement et au Traité de Berlin la liberté de la conscience ainsi que la libre organisation des communautés religieuses ne peuvent pas être entravées, les Bulgares habitants de la Roumélie Orientale et des provinces de Thrace et de Macédoine ont la faculté de demander par écrit au Gouvernement Impérial le libre exercice de leur religion sur la base de *statu quo* moral ou matériel existant avant la guerre. Mais ils doivent déclarer préalablement par écrit à quel rite ils appartiennent, à l'Exarchat Bulgare schismatique, dans lequel cas ils doivent porter un changement dans les insignes de leur clergé, puisque le clergé de chaque rite est tenu de porter chacun un costume distinctif; il faut qu'ils soient reconnus officiellement par le Gouvernement Impérial comme des communautés Bulgares schismatiques, et ce n'est qu'alors qu'ils peuvent jouir de la liberté d'exercer leurs droits religieux conformément aux lois de l'Etat et au Traité; mais tant qu'ils persistent d'être considérés comme des Chrétiens Orthodoxes ils sont obligés de se soumettre à leur autorité légitime ecclésiastique c'est-à-dire au Patriarcat Œcuménique. Personne ne saurait raisonnablement blâmer le Gouvernement Impérial de penser et d'agir ainsi, car ce n'est que sous les conditions que celui-ci peut reconnaître une parfaite liberté de conscience dans les limites prescrites par la loi et par le Traité. Ce procédé du Gouvernement est d'ailleurs dicté et justifié par l'exemple récent de la communauté anti-Hassouniste, à laquelle il a été déclaré qu'elle ne saurait être reconnue par le Gouvernement Impérial autant qu'elle ne change de nom. Quand les Bulgares qui se trouvent dans la Roumélie Orientale ou hors de cette province consentent à être distingués de la manière précédente, alors l'Exarque qui se trouve en Bulgarie peut avoir ici un vicaire pour les Bulgares schismatiques qui se trouvent dans l'Empire Ottoman, et celui-ci peut nommer des prêtres et des Evêques dans ces communautés Bulgares schismatiques.

* En ce qu'elle touche les habitants des provinces de l'Empire Ottoman.

En d'autres mots, il faut qu'il en soit sur ce chapitre ce qui se fait pour le vicaire Protestant.

4. Il est urgent que la question ait une solution définitive, d'autant plus que la discussion existant aujourd'hui entre ces deux peuples—les Grècs et les Bulgares schismatiques—et son prolongement auquel concourent l'ignorance et la conduite répréhensible de quelques employés inférieurs du Gouvernement qui prennent parti pour les Bulgares dans les conflits qui arrivent de temps en temps, nuit au Gouvernement Impérial plus qu'à qui que ce soit; ces passions réligieuses seront apaisées un jour ou l'autre, et les deux parties se réconcilieront sous le point de vue de la religion; en attendant, le Gouvernement Ottoman perd beaucoup; comme il est prouvé en partie les dernières mesures prises dans l'occasion ne sont d'aucune utilité, et la manière d'agir suivant laquelle une faveur égale est accordée aux deux parties est funeste pour le Gouvernement. Par conséquent:

5. Quant aux désordres commis par les Bulgares schismatiques et les querelles qui ont lieu entre ceux-ci et les Grecs, il est nécessaire que les autorités locales soient invitées à maintenir partout sévèrement le *statu quo* tel qu'il existait avant la guerre ou tel qu'il existe aujourd'hui, et que les employés du Gouvernement s'abstiennent dans les questions et dans les conflits qui en naissent de suivre une politique à leur guise, et celle qui dans son opinion personnelle, chaque croit la meilleure pour les intérêts du Gouvernement; que ces mêmes employés s'abstiennent de prendre partie dans ces conflits, soit par cupidité, soit par sympathie, soit par la crainte d'une persécution de la part des Bulgares Notables, qui pourrait amener leur destitution; que tous les différends élevés pour reconnaissance ou la non reconnaissance de l'Evêque ou du Métropolitain de l'endroit pour des églises, des écoles, de leurs biens, et pour tout autre sujet de cette nature, soient résolus sur la base du *statu quo*, c'est-à-dire que l'objet en litige reste entre les mains de ceux qui en avaient et qui en ont la possession.

C'est en cette question principalement que le Gouvernement usant de son droit peut ordonner et persévérer sur le maintien du *statu quo*. Cette conduite mettrait fin aux artifices, arrêterait beaucoup le mal, et apaiserait les esprits.

No. 165.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 153. Confidential.)

Constantinople, February 3, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a private letter addressed to me by Consul Calvert, reporting a conversation with Raouf Pasha, the present Governor-General of the Vilayet of Adrianople, on the subject of the reforms to be introduced into Turkey. Your Lordship will, I think, read the Pasha's observations with interest. He appears to have succeeded in obtaining general approval of the manner in which he has discharged his duties as Vali during a very critical and difficult period, and even the Russians could find no complaint against him after they had transferred the administration of the province to him. It is, perhaps, on account of the ability and impartiality he has shown that he has incurred the hostility of the present Prime Minister and some of his colleagues, who would seem to be seeking for an excuse to remove him from his post. I have done my best to support him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 165.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Adrianople, January 31, 1880.

Dear Sir Henry Layard,

IN the course of conversation with the Governor-General this afternoon he returned to the subject of reforms, and charged me, confidentially, with a message to you. Having expressed his conviction that England is the best friend the Turkish nation possesses, and that Her Majesty's Government are sincerely anxious to see thorough reforms introduced into the administration of this country, the Vali went on to say that no real reforms were possible until the Financial Department of the Porte

has been entirely reorganized, and the working of that Department placed under the efficacious and efficient control of European specialists. He declared that if your Excellency would only insist in uncompromising terms on the carrying out of such reorganization, and the establishment of such control, a demand on the part of England which the Treaty of Berlin would sufficiently warrant, you would be supported by the approval of the whole Turkish nation. From the intimate knowledge of the present Sultan's character which he claims to possess, Reouf Pasha thinks that his Majesty would not long resist the firm insistance of England on this point. And he particularly remarked that no importance should be attached to the philipics of the "Terdjimani Hakikat" and other official organs which are inspired, and sometimes even written by the present Prime Minister, who, according to Reouf Pasha, is the most unpopular, as well as the most contemptible man that has ever held those functions in Turkey. The Vali requested me to assure you that in spite of all symptoms and all declarations of the contrary, the bulk of the Turkish nation is filled with good-will and veneration towards England; that its hopes of salvation from its present pitiable plight are centered in England, and that it would hail with joy the adoption by our Government of such an attitude as would compel the Turkish bureaucracy to reform. He said that no European could have a conception of the improvidence, of the robberies, and of the waste of which the Turkish finances were the victims, and that the Augean stables of that Department once cleaned all other reforms would be comparatively easy. Reouf Pasha said all this with an impassioned earnestness which shows how deeply he has at heart the regeneration of his country. As regards the feeling with which the population, and above all the Mussulmans, are animated towards England, I have had, during the last three years, ample proof of the implicit trust in the good faith, the generosity, the religious impartiality, and the justice of the British Government which is popularly entertained, and which has become proverbial and traditional.

During the late war I was often asked by Mussulmans of every class at Philippopoli, why England did not take them under her rule, and protect them against the hated Russians; and since the war not only at Philippopoli, but even at Adrianople numerous applications have been made to me by Turks desirous of becoming British subjects. No such application, as far as I can discover, have ever been made to the Representatives of other Powers.

I remain, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 166.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 154.)

Constantinople, February 3, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed to me by Consul Calvert with reference to a visit of the Bulgarian Exarch to Adrianople, on his way to Constantinople. The object of his Eminence's appearance in the capital is well-known. He wishes to obtain the permission of the Porte to establish Bulgarian Bishopries in Macedonia and in other parts of Turkey in Europe. The Greek Patriarch, as I have already informed your Lordship, sees the danger, and is much alarmed at it. Sawas Pasha informs me that his Holiness has made urgent representations to the Porte on the subject, urging it to refuse to accede to the Exarch's demands. Judging from his Excellency's observations to me, the Turkish Government is disposed to do so, and will attempt to limit the ecclesiastical authority and jurisdiction of his Eminence to the Principality of Bulgaria. But I shall endeavour to obtain further information on this important matter. I inclose an article published on the subject by the "Turquie," a semi-official newspaper, and a reply to it in the Bulgarian newspaper "La Voix de la Bulgarie."

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 166.

Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Adrianople, January 28, 1880.

Sir,

THE stoppage of railway communication having obliged the Bulgarian Exarch, on his way from Philippopoli to Constantinople, to stay three days at Adrianople, several members of the foreign community availed themselves of this opportunity to call upon his Eminence.

To one of these persons, M. Rozenburg, a Protestant missionary, who is known to be a warm advocate of the Pan-Bulgarian movement, the Exarch made certain statements which throw a light on the motives which have dictated the choice of Constantinople as the residence of the head of the Bulgarian Church, and reveal the extent of the national aspirations of the Bulgarians.

The Exarch's statements have just been repeated to me by M. Rozenburg himself.

According to that gentleman, his Eminence said that the object of his permanent abode being fixed at Constantinople was that he might be the better able, by constant and direct intercourse with the Porte and the European Ambassadors, to obtain protection for the numerous Bulgarians living in European Turkey, and to foster the national sentiments of those Bulgarians, in opposition to the Hellenic propaganda, by the establishment of new churches and schools.

The Exarch professed the sincerest loyalty to the Sultan; and he said that he thought the present time, when the Greeks, by their claims for increased territory, had made themselves disagreeable to the Porte, was most favourable for the obtainment of increased privileges for the Bulgarian Church.

His Eminence expressed his opinion that not only the Provinces of Adrianople and Macedonia would soon be acknowledged as mainly Bulgarian in an ethnographical sense, but that even in Thessaly and Epirus, when a sufficient number of Bulgarian churches and schools shall have been established there, and when the Koutzo-Wallachs, now awakening to a sense of their Roumanian origin, shall have been fully severed from the Greeks, the Bulgarian element will be found to be at least of equal strength with the Greek.

With what funds all these future Bulgarian churches and schools are to be established is a question into which the Exarch did not enter.

But, remembering the open-handed support which the Panslavistic societies in Russia have ever been ready to afford for the dissemination of their doctrines by educational and ecclesiastical means, it is but too obvious that the Pan-Bulgarian schemes of the Exarch will largely depend for their success on the co-operation, probably already promised, of those societies.

As to the ultimate goal of the movement of which the Exarch will place himself at the head, it is recorded in the manuals of geography now used in the Bulgarian schools of the new Principality and of Eastern Roumelia, and in which the capital of Bulgaria is stated to be Constantinople.

The hopes of the Bulgarians for the realization of their plans are probably directed not towards Russia only, but even in a considerable measure towards the Porte, which, under present circumstances, the Bulgarians may not unreasonably expect will be ready to help them in their endeavours to establish a partial claim to the provinces on the Greek border.

Should the Porte and the Panslavists of Russia unite in favouring the pretensions of the Bulgarians, and the Bulgarian Church, assisted pecuniarily from abroad, gain in popularity by promising exemption from church dues, the numerous Christians of doubtful denomination who inhabit European Turkey would easily be gained over to the Bulgarian cause, and the very existence of the Greek element would be endangered.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 166.

Extract from "La Turquie" of January 16, 1880.

D'APRÈS une lettre de Philippopoli le départ de l'Exarque Bulgare pour Constantinople est définitivement décidé. Sa Béatitude partirait immédiatement après les fêtes de l'Epiphanie. Elle compte fixer sa résidence à Constantinople pour diriger d'ici les affaires ecclésiastiques de la Principauté Bulgare et de la Roumélie Orientale.

L'exercice de ces fonctions à Constanstinope est, à notre avis, impossible tant que la qualité de ce Chef ecclésiastique ne sera pas dûment réglée.

Par suite de la nouvelle situation politique de la Principauté Bulgare, l'Exarque ne saurait continuer à être le Chef spirituel des Bulgares de la Principauté et prétendre en même temps diriger les églises des autres Bulgares sujets directs de la Sublime Porte, de même que le Patriarche œcuménique ne peut exercer aucune juridiction sur les Orthodoxes de la Roumanie, de la Serbie, &c.

Cette double qualité de l'Exarque Bulgare résidant tantôt à Constantinople et tantôt à Sophia ou à Philippopoli, est chose anormale. Aussi le Patriarcat œcuménique saisira, croyons-nous, la Sublime Porte de cette question.

Inclosure 3 in No. 166.

Extract from "La Voix de la Bulgarie" of January 23, 1880.

Sophia, le 23 *Janvier.*

LE Journal officieux, "La Turquie," de Constantinople, dans son numéro du 16 Janvier dernier, conteste à l'Exarque Bulgare le droit de résider à Constantinople pour diriger de cette ville les affaires ecclésiastiques de la Roumélie et de la Bulgare. Ce journal ajoute :—

"Par suite de la nouvelle situation politique de la Principauté Bulgare, l'Exarque ne saurait continuer à être le Chef spirituel des Bulgares de la Principauté et prétendre, en même temps, diriger les églises des autres Bulgares sujets de la Sublime Porte, de même que le Patriarche œcuménique ne peut exercer aucune juridiction sur les Orthodoxes de la Roumanie, de la Serbie, &c. Cette double qualité de l'Exarque Bulgare, résidant tantôt à Constantinople; tantôt à Sophia ou à Philippopoli, est chose anormale. Aussi le Patriarche œcuménique saisira, croyons-nous, la Sublime Porte de cette question."

Nous n'aurions pas relevé ces déclarations de "La Turquie" si nous ne connaissions les attaches de cette feuille. Aussi nous hâtons-nous d'y répondre et d'établir, par des documents, le droit de l'Exarque à choisir sa résidence où bon lui semblera. Il devrait nous suffire de nous appuyer du principe moderne de la liberté des cultes reconnu par le Gouvernement Turc lui-même. On se rappelle, sans doute, la longue lutte que les Bulgares soutinrent contre la prépotence du Patriarcat Grec et pour l'obtention d'une Eglise autonome et nationale. Le Gouvernement Ottoman reconnut lui-même la légitimité de ces efforts en nous accordant le Firman du 8 Zilhidjé, an 1286 de l'hégire (27 Février, 1870).

Ce Firman ordonne la création d'un Exarchat Bulgare indépendant comprenant les Eparchies (Diocèses) de Roustchouk, Silistrie, Schoumla, Tirnovo, Sophia, Vratza, Loftcha, Viddin, Samakof, Kostendil, Philippopoli, Sliven, et Veles (Macédoine). Les autres Eparchies devaient être incorporées à l'Exarchat si deux tiers des Chrétiens s'y déclaraient en faveur de cette réunion. Ce fait se présenta pour les Eparchies d'Ochrida, Bitolia, et Skopina, toutes les trois en Macédoine.

Le Métropolite Suprême ou Exarque, devait être élu par les autres Métropolites et confirmé par un bérat du Sultan. Le premier Exarque fut Mgr. Anthyme, Evêque de Viddin; il fut élu le 16 Février, 1872. Son voyage de Viddin à Constantinople fut un triomphe. Le peuple le salua avec enthousiasme sur son passage, et les autorités lui rendirent les honneurs dus à sa dignité. Il fut reçu en audience solennelle par le Grand Vizir d'abord et ensuite par le Sultan, qui lui conféra les plus hautes décorations Ottomanes. L'élection du premier Exarque avait eu lieu à Ortakoui, village composé de villas, situé dans le voisinage de Constantinople, sur le Bosphore. Le siége de l'Exarchat fut fixé également à Ortakoui. Pendant la guerre, Mgr. Anthyme fut interné à Angora, par ordre du Gouvernement Turc, et ensuite arbitrairement dépossédé. Son successeur, Mgr. Joseph, l'Exarque actuel, avait fixé provisoirement

sa demeure à Philippopoli, où il attendit que les derniers bouleversements eussent pris fin.

Nous nous sommes étendus sur le Firman d'investiture qui reste absolument intact. Ce Firman fut lui-même, pour ainsi dire, ratifié par les divers Protocoles qui intervinrent entre les parties et, notamment, par le Traité de Berlin. Voici, du reste, ceux des passages de ce Traité qui visent la question spéciale des cultes :—

"Article 5. La liberté et la pratique extérieure de toutes les cultes sont assurées à tous les ressortissants de la Bulgarie, aussi bien qu'aux étrangers, et aucune entrave ne pourra être apportée soit à l'organisation hiérarchique des différentes communions, soit à leurs rapports avec leurs Chefs spirituels.

"Article 62. La Sublime Porte ayant exprimé la volonté de maintenir le principe de la liberté religieuse, en lui donnant l'extension la plus large, les parties contractantes prennent acte de cette déclaration spontanée.

"La liberté et la pratique extérieure de tous les cultes sont assurées à tous et aucune entrave ne pourra être apportée, soit à l'organisation hiérarchique des différentes communions, soit à leurs rapports avec leurs Chefs spirituels."

Les trois paraphes ci-dessus sont d'une précision absolue et ne permettent aucune interprétation restrictive. L'exemple du Patriarche Grec que cite le journal "La Turquie" n'est pas heureux. Ce Chef spirituel n'exerce aucune juridiction sur la Roumanie et la Serbie, par cette excellente raison que ces deux pays possèdent des Eglises autonomes, et que, d'ailleurs, ils appartiennent à des nationalités différentes. Libre au Patriarche, dit œcuménique, d'étendre ses droits spirituels sur tous les Grecs ; personne ne le lui conteste. Eh bien, nous réclamons le même droit pour nous. Le Patriarcat est une dignité purement spirituelle dont l'exercice n'atteint en rien les droits régaliens du Sultan. Nous pourrions citer la pleine indépendance de la France, de l'Espagne, et de l'Autriche vis-à-vis du Roi d'Italie, bien que la capitale de ce dernier renferme, elle aussi, un Patriarche œcuménique, un Pape dont l'autorité s'exerce, sans difficulté, sur les Catholiques du monde entier. Il nomme aux dignités épiscopales ou cardinalices, sans que les nations étrangères songent à protester et à lui contester le droit de résider à l'étranger, ou que le Roi Humbert lui intime l'ordre d'évacuer Rome. Si l'on était sensible, à Constantinople, aux beautés de l'Evangile, nous rappellerions ces paroles du Christ: "Quæ Cæsaris, Cæsari : Deï, Deo sunt, redde."

Nous persistons donc à réclamer pour l'Exarque Bulgare le bénéfice du Firman de 1872, tel qu'il a été octroyé et tel, assurément, que l'ont considéré les Puissances Contractantes du Traité de Berlin. La Commission Européenne, instituée à Philippopoli, fut en relations constantes avec l'Exarque Bulgare, sans qu'il se soit jamais élevé le moindre doute sur l'étendue de ses attributions spirituelles. Nous soutenons que l'Exarque Bulgare peut établir sa résidence non-seulement à Constantinople, mais encore dans toute autre localité dont la situation lui semblera plus favorable à l'administration ecclésiastique qu'il exerce sur les Bulgares de la Principauté, de la province autonome de la Roumélie Orientale, et des sandjacs d'Andrinople et de Macédoine. Nous espérons que sa Béatitude maintiendra haut et ferme la plénitude de ses droits établis par le Firman, le bérat d'investiture, et par la liberté religieuse accordée aux Chrétiens de la Turquie dans le Traité de Berlin. L'appui de l'Europe elle-même, nous en sommes convaincus, ne lui manquera pas au besoin.

No. 167.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 156. Most Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 4*, 1880.

AS the circumstances connected with the action of the Italian Government, in proposing an arrangement for the settlement of the Gusinjé affair to the Prince of Montenegro, appear to have been misunderstood—at least as far as Count Corti is concerned—I think it desirable to place them before your Lordship in what I believe to be their true light.

The proposed exchange of territory, afterwards modified, was first submitted to me by Sawas Pasha. I asked his Excellency whether I was to consider his communication as official, and whether I was to report it to my Government. He begged me not to do so for the time, as, before coming to a decision on the subject, he wished to consult his colleagues. He was to let me know when the matter could be formally

placed before your Lordship. A day or two afterwards he made a similar communication to Count Corti, who put the same question to him as I had. Sawas Pasha, after some consideration, authorized Count Corti to inform the Italian Government that the Porte would be ready to give in exchange, for the part of Gusinjé-Plava occupied by a Mussulman population, the district of Kuči-Kraïna, up to the line of mountains and to the Gulf of Castraté, in the Lake of Scutari ; but he added that the proposal for an exchange must come from the Prince of Montenegro himself, and not from the Porte, as on three occasions overtures to this effect having been made to him and rejected, it would not be consistent with the dignity of the Turkish Government to expose itself to another refusal.

Count Corti thereupon telegraphed to his Government Sawas Pasha's proposal, and urged them, in the strongest terms, to endeavour to prevail upon the Prince of Montenegro to accede to it. He at the same time informed me of the step he had taken. He told me, most confidentially, that his main object in interfering in the matter was, if possible, to bring about the settlement of a question which, if left much longer open, might lead to bloodshed, and to a state of affairs in Albania which might afford an excuse to certain persons in Italy to enter upon "a policy of adventure" in that province—a policy which he strongly condemned, and considered most dangerous to the interests of his country. He reminded me that he had already exposed himself to serious reproach from those who had expected him to come back from Berlin "with Albania in his pocket."

Count Corti further asked me whether what he had done would be approved by Her Majesty's Government. I replied that I would submit Sawas Pasha's proposal to your Lordship, and ask for your instructions on the subject, but that I had no doubt that Her Majesty's Government would be glad to see any arrangement brought about which would settle the Gusinjé question and prevent bloodshed and its consequences, provided that the Porte and Montenegro could come to an agreement on the subject. Count Corti also communicated the step he had taken to his French and other colleagues. Although M. Fournier, he told me, seemed somewhat jealous of his action in the matter, he did not offer any opposition to it.

It appears that the Italian Government, thus pressed by Count Corti, gave instructions to its Representative at Cettinjé to sound the Prince of Montenegro on the subject of the exchange. Their suggestion would seem to have been favourably received, and Count Corti was informed that the Prince would be willing, in lieu of that part of Gusinjé-Plava which is inhabited by Albanian Mussulmans, to accept the district of Kuči-Kraïna with the limits proposed, but would, in addition, require that the line of frontier between the Lake of Scutari and the sea, proposed by the Russian and Montenegrin members of the Delimitation Commission, should be accepted by Turkey, and, moreover, that the Porte should engage to compensate those Mussulmans whose property the Montenegrin Government had confiscated. Count Corti communicated the Prince's counter-proposal to Sawas Pasha, and recommended its acceptance, with the exception of the condition as to compensation to be given to Mussulmans, upon which he expressed his conviction that the Prince could not insist. Sawas Pasha did not seem unfavourable to the arrangement, but said that he could not give an answer without first submitting it to the Cabinet. The question was, I believe, discussed yesterday by a Military Commission at the Porte, but with what result I have not yet learned.

In the meanwhile Count Dubsky, the Austro-Hungarian Minister, arrived at Constantinople. Count Corti tells me that he has made two ineffectual attempts to see him, and that his calls have not, to his surprise, been returned. He understands, however, that Count Dubsky has denounced his action in the Gusinjé affair as "an Italian intrigue." So far from such being the case, Count Corti assures me, he was seeking to take the first opportunity to place the whole matter before his Austrian colleague, and is so anxious to prove that in acting as he has done he has been desirous of consulting the interests of Austria herself, and of maintaining friendly relations between her and Italy, that if his interference is displeasing to the Austrian Government, he is quite ready to withdraw from it. He feels convinced that Baron Haymerle, who became well acquainted with his views and sentiments at Berlin, could scarcely doubt their sincerity on this occasion, and he expresses much regret that Count Dubsky, without waiting for explanations or communicating with him, had come to the conclusion that he was engaged in an intrigue against Austria. I advised Count Corti to make another effort to see Count Dubsky, and when the latter spoke to me on the subject of Count Corti's action in the Gusinjé affair, which he appeared to consider as nothing but an Italian intrigue, I recommended him to have

a frank explanation with Count Corti, and to hear what his Italian colleague had to say on the subject. I told him, at the same time, that in pursuance of instructions from your Lordship, I was prepared to support the policy of his Government in this question. I ventured, however, to add that I considered it of great importance to Austria, as well as to Europe in general, that it should be speedily settled, as an outbreak of hostilities between the Albanians and Montenegrins in the spring might lead to very serious consequences. I considered it, therefore, to the advantage of all parties that an arrangement of some kind should be come to. He expressed his agreement in my views, and said that he was glad to find that I believed Count Corti to have acted straightforwardly and without any hostile intentions as regards Austria. He will, I believe, see Count Corti to-day to discuss the matter with him. In the meanwhile he has telegraphed to Vienna for instructions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 168.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 159.) *Constantinople, February 4*, 1880.
My Lord,

I HAVE the honour herewith to forward to your Lordship the inclosed despatch from Captain Swaine on military matters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 168.

Captain Swaine to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.) *Constantinople, February 4*, 1880.
Sir,

A FEW days ago I called on Bluhm Pasha, of whom your Excellency may remember General Sir Collingwood Dickson used to speak in high terms.

In the course of conversation he expressed himself anxious that the Greek frontier question should be speedily settled to enable Turkey further to reduce her army and set about in earnest with its reorganization, and also to devote herself entirely to home matters, which were becoming very urgent.

I then inquired of him what he thought Turkey would sacrifice to that end, at the same time remembering that, taking the line of the two rivers proposed by the Berlin Congress as a base, for whatever Turkey declined to cede in Epirus she must offer an equivalent in Thessaly, or *vice versâ*.

The General replied that he would send me a memorandum on the subject, a copy of which I have now the honour to submit.

Your Excellency will notice that it coincides very much with the line I proposed in a former despatch, as probably possible of acceptance by both Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEOPOLD V. SWAINE,
Captain and Military Attaché.

Inclosure 2 in No. 168.

Mémoire devant servir comme explication du Projet de la Nouvelle Frontière Turco-Grecque indiqué aux trois Sections jointes ci-après de la Carte de la Turquie d'Europe, dressée par l'Etat-Major Autrichien.

J'AI l'honneur de soumettre respectueusement trois sections de la carte dressée par l'Etat-Major Autrichien de la Turquie d'Europe, savoir, la section de Salonique, d'Arta, et de Cestoria, auxquelles je viens d'indiquer, en couleur jaune ocre, un projet de la nouvelle délimitation du territoire Greco-Turc en Thessalie et en Epire qui, tout en portant compte aux conditions d'un agrandissement du Royaume de

Hellas devant (1) d'abord améliorer sa position défensive en face de la Turquie; et (2) le faire indépendant, par l'acquisition d'une vaste plaine fertile, de l'importation des céréales, lui refuserait pourtant les moyens pour une future politique aggressive contre l'Empire Ottoman et contraire au maintien de l'équilibre Européen.

Comme telle politique paraît dépendre, en première instance, de l'acquisition éventuelle, par la Grèce, de la partie méridionale de l'Albanie, c'est-à-dire notamment des deux positions importantes de Janina et Preveza (Golfe d'Arta), dont la première servirait à elle d'exercer une influence dominante, à l'avenir, sur le peuple des Arnautes, race la plus martiale et belliqueuse dans la presqu'île des Balkans, tandis que l'autre, comme meilleur port de guerre au point de vue défensif dans la Méditerranée, pourrait engager même les Hellènes de menacer par une alliance avec l'Italie et la France l'actuelle balance du pouvoir à la même mer centrale—

"Il est d'urgence d'insister sur ce que Janina et Preveza restassent entre les mains du Sultan et que l'augmentation du territoire Grec à l'Epire soit réduit à un minimum insignifiant."

Se recommandaient pour ce dernier but deux expédients:—

1. Ou on pouvait choisir, comme nouvelle ligne de frontière, le thalweg du fleuve d'Arta;

2. Ou la ligne du partage des eaux entre celui-ci et le fleuve d'Aspropotamos.

En me déclarant pour la dernière manière de résoudre le problème sus-indiqué, je m'empresse de rendre compte de mes motifs, qui sont ceux-ci:

"Que tel arrangement simplifierait la transaction entière en la réduisant à la stipulation suivante: futurement la totalité du bassin de l'Aspropotamos (et du Pénéus ou Salambria, y compris les affluents gauches et droites de ces deux fleuves) appartiendra à la Grèce;

"Qu'en conséquence de lui—tout en allouant au Royaume de Hellas une petite partie de l'Epire—cette acquisition serait pourtant diminuée autant que possible;

"Qu'en adoptant à la nouvelle délimitation généralement la ligne du partage des eaux comme démarcation, decision qui du reste a été proposée et approuvée par les Grecs même, l'admission en Epire du thalweg de l'Arta serait une contradiction;

"Que l'adoption, comme frontière en Epire, de la ligne du partage des eaux de l'Arta et de l'Aspropotamos (au lieu de celle du thalweg du premier fleuve) dégagerait mieux la position de Janina;

"Que les sacrifices de la Turquie seraient diminués."

Du reste, sur la carte jointe ci-près j'ai pris soin d'indiquer l'alternative, en colorant la ligne du thalweg de l'Arta en jaune-vif (ou tranchant).

Quant à la nouvelle frontière en Thessalie, j'étais d'avis:

"Que mieux vaudrait d'y accorder au Royaume de Hellas une compensation complète et suffisante pour ce qu'on ne lui peut allouer en Epire que sous risque de grands dangers, au lieu de marchander pointilleusement pas pour pas."

Je croyais donc devoir proposer:

"Que la ligne du partage des eaux entre le bassin du fleuve Pénéus (Salambria), dont l'acquisition entière serait faite par la Grèce et le bassin du fleuve de Vistrica ou Indché Kara Sou (Haliacmon), qui, sans aucune exception, resterait conservé à la Turquie, soit prise comme base pour la délimitation.

"Enfin, en considérant que le Mont d'Olympe comme centre local de la légende de l'ancien Hellas, est d'une valeur pour ainsi dire idéelle pour l'actuel peuple Grec, je suppose que l'Europe serait disposée d'admettre une trace de frontière qui, à l'avenir, le donnera à la Grèce."

(Signé) BLUHM.

Constantinople, ce 3 Février, 1880.

No. 169.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 34. Confidential.) *Philippopoli, January 31*, 1880.
My Lord,

A SERIOUS difference has arisen between General Streeker and Aleko Pasha.

The former removed from the head-quarters staff of the gendarmerie and transferred to regimental duty in a local corps a young Bulgarian officer who was suspected

of taking bribes from contractors, and Aleko Pasha remonstrated, in writing, with General Strecker for having taken such action without consulting the Secretary-General and himself, as required by Article 468 of the Organic Statute.

General Strecker has replied that the Governor-General had evidently been induced by "the party of intrigue" to make this remonstrance, since his Excellency could not possibly have forgotten that he had given him (General Strecker) some time ago authority in writing to make any changes he might think necessary in the *personnel* of the subaltern officers of the gendarmerie.

In transmitting a copy of the document by which that authority had been conveyed, General Strecker has warned the Governor-General that, unless his Excellency succeeds in putting an end to the intrigues which hinder the proper organization of the militia and gendarmerie in this province, he will be compelled to resign.

On the plea of illness the General has not transacted business at the "Etat-Major" for the last four days, and is expecting a reply from the Governor-General before resuming actively his official duties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 170.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, January 31, 1880.*

I HAVE much pleasure in reporting to your Lordship that M. Schmidt has this day withdrawn his resignation of the office of Director of Finance of Eastern Roumelia.

The inclosed paragraph in the "Philippoupolis" was evidently written under the impression that M. Schmidt would not be induced to withdraw that resignation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 171.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 36.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, February 1, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith, the translation of an Order of the Day addressed by General Strecker to the troops which he reviewed on the 27th ultimo, on the occasion of their demobilisation.

The militia is being reduced to a force of 4,400 men of all arms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 171.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of January 31, 1880.

ORDRE DU JOUR.—Camarades, une partie de vous sera congédiée à présent dans ses foyers; ceux qui restent sous les armes suivront les autres aussitôt que les circonstances le permettront. Je vous rappelle à vous tous de ne jamais oublier que la base de toute organisation militaire est la discipline, qui seule rend apte le soldat à remplir son devoir en temps de paix comme en temps de guerre. Le soldat est principalement élevé en temps de paix pour la guerre, mais il a aussi, même en temps de paix, le devoir important d'aider au maintain des lois et de l'ordre public. Comme votre Commandant, j'ai le droit d'attendre que dorénavant vous vous conduisiez, dans le service comme hors du service, sous les armes comme dans vos foyers, de manière à ce que vous serviez de modèle à vos concitoyens et que ceux-ci puissent de raison être fiers de vous, car c'est ainsi seulement que vous remplirez entièrement votre devoir envers la province.

Je vous exprime ma pleine et entière satisfaction sur votre tenue à la parade d'aujourd'hui, ce qui prouve que, dirigés par des officiers tels que ceux qui vous commandent actuellement, vous pouvez devenir des soldats excellents, si vous avez toujours la volonté sérieuse.

J'exprime mes meilleurs souhaits à ceux qui partent, et je leur donne l'assurance à eux comme à ceux qui restent que, non-seulement je remplirai sévèrement comme leur chef mon devoir, envers tous, mais que je veillerai aussi comme leur camarade sur leur bien-être.

No. 172.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 114.)
My Lord, *Paris, February 11, 1880.*

THIS afternoon, in obedience to the instruction conveyed to me by your Lordship's telegram No. 27 of yesterday, I informed M. de Freycinet that your Lordship agreed to the draft which he had prepared of an identic note to be addressed by the Representatives of Great Britain, France, and Germany, at Bucharest, to the Roumanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, to announce the recognition of the independence of the Principality by their respective Governments. I added that your Lordship had sent instructions to the British Representative at Bucharest to act in concert with his French and German colleagues in the matter.

M. de Freycinet said that his draft had been accepted by the German Government also, and that, therefore, all that remained in order to insure the action of the three Powers being identic and simultaneous, was to fix in concert the day on which the note should be dated and delivered.

He desired me to propose the 20th of the present month of February to your Lordship, and to suggest that the three Governments should instruct their respective Agents at Bucharest to affix that date to their identic notes, and to present them simultaneously on that day to the Government of Roumania.

He said, in conclusion, that he should be glad to know, as soon as possible, whether this arrangement was agreed to by Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

P.S.—It may be right that I should mention to your Lordship that M. Callimaki-Catargi, the Roumanian Agent here, came to me this morning, and told me that his Government had heard that it was proposed that the recognition of the three Powers should be conveyed in notes containing observations respecting the religious question, and that they deprecated the presentation of any notes of the kind. I did not think it right to encourage M. Callimaki-Catargi to expect any change in the intentions of the three Powers.

Prince Hohenlohe, the German Ambassador, whom I met in M. de Freycinet's ante-room, told me that he had received a similar communication from M. Callimaki-Catargi, and had treated it in the same way.

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No. 173.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 13.)

(No. 117.)
My Lord, *Paris, February 12, 1880.*

M. DE FREYCINET has been so good as to send me this morning a copy of a despatch dated yesterday, in which he has conveyed to the French Ambassador in London the answer of the French Government to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government that the question of the Turco-Greek frontier shall be referred to an International Commission. I have the honour to transmit a copy to your Lordship herewith.

The despatch states at length the meaning which the French Government attaches to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government, and, under the conditions

explained, accepts that proposal, and expresses the expectation that England will endeavour to obtain the adherence to it of the other Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 173.

M. de Freycinet to Admiral Pothuau.

Paris, le 11 *Février,* 1880.

M. l'Amiral,

VOS deux télégrammes d'hier, résumant les indications qui vous ont été transmises de la part du Marquis de Salisbury, et que le Comte de Beaconsfield vous a personellement confirmées, déterminent le terrain sur lequel le Gouvernement Anglais paraît résolu à se placer dans l'affaire des frontières Grecques.

Les Ministres de la Reine persistent à penser que la solution des questions en litige doit être demandé à une réunion de Commissaires Spéciaux, procédant comme une Commission de Délimitation et prenant pour base de leurs travaux le Protocole 13 du Congrès de Berlin.

Vous connaissez déjà les objections qui peuvent être élevées contre une semblable mode de procéder; je vous les ai développées dans ma dépêche du 4 de ce mois.

La principale à nos yeux c'est que ce système risque de perpétuer l'agitation dans les esprits en prolongeant le débat sur des points de détail, si l'on ne parvient pas à se mettre promptement d'accord sur une base générale de délimitation plus précise que celle de l'Article XIII.

J'ai lieu de penser que cette considération ne frappe pas moins vivement d'autres Cabinets que nous-mêmes. A Berlin, par exemple, on estime que les traits principaux du tracé devraient être arrêtés par les Puissances, préalablement aux opérations techniques de la Commission de Délimitation; cette impression est probablement partagé par le Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois.

Je dois reconnaître cependant que les termes dans lesquels vous a été présentée la suggestion Anglaise n'exclue pas la possibilité d'un rapprochement pratique entre les points de vue différents auxquels nous sommes placés. Le Cabinet de Londres, tout en indiquant comme base de discussion le Protocole 13 du Congrès de Berlin, admet que la Commission Internationale dont il propose la réunion, pourra s'écarter au besoin de cette base et adopter tel autre tracé qu'elle jugerait préférable dans l'intérêt des deux parties. Ses décisions seraient prises à la majorité des voix.

Il résulte de là que la Commission demeurera libre de fixer comme point de départ de ses travaux, soit la ligne transactionnelle proposée par M. Waddington au mois de Décembre dernier, soit toute autre ligne qui constituerait un compromis acceptable entre les intérêts divergents de la Turquie et de la Grèce. La Commission demeure maîtresse de ses résolutions à cet égard et elle sera compétente pour régler souverainement, suivant la majorité des votes, aussi bien la question du tracé général, que sa propre procédure et l'ordre de ses travaux.

Il est manifeste que les Commissaires des Puissances étant armés de pouvoirs aussi larges, il dépendra d'eux de hâter, comme nous le croyons indispensable, la solution des difficultés de principe qui nous ont arrêtés jusqu'à ce jour. L'étendue même du mandat qui leur serait confié ferait disparaître quelques-uns des inconvénients que je vous avais signalés, et dès lors, si nous sommes bien d'accord avec l'Angleterre sur l'interprétation de la pensée que vous m'avez communiquée, une entente définitive entre nous et le Cabinet de Londres deviendrait beaucoup plus facile. Le désir très-sincère que nous avons d'arriver à ce résultat nous engage au surplus à nous montrer aussi conciliants que possible sur les questions de forme, et cette considération nous détermine à accepter, sous le bénéfice des explications qui précèdent, la combinaison dont Lord Beaconsfield vous a entretenu, et pour laquelle l'Angleterre se prépare sans doute à rechercher l'adhésion des autres Puissances.

No. 174.

Count Károlyi to Mr. Currie.—(Received February 13.)

(Private.)
Belgrave Square, February 11, 1880.

Dear Mr. Currie,

RUSSIA has proposed to us, by the inclosed despatches, to come to a direct understanding with the Russian Cabinet on all questions connected with the Montenegrin Delimitation before the Commission meets again. Without further consideration Austria-Hungary had not thought fit to accede to these proposals, as there seemed to him to be serious objections to a previous detailed settlement of the Montenegrin line of frontier. The reasons that we had in view in this case are indicated in the two despatches to Kálnoky here annexed, which I bring herewith confidentially to Lord Salisbury's knowledge.

We felt bound to refuse coming to a separate agreement with the Russian Cabinet on a subject which is of European interest. We could not, however, on principle, object to an exchange of ideas between the Cabinets, particularly as the decisions of the Commissions itself seem to point to an agreement of the Cabinets amongst themselves.

Baron Haymerle will inform me of any further communication that may eventually be made to us by Russia, so as to remain in constant contact with the British Cabinet, and to be able to secure its support in those matters which are of a special interest to us.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) KÁROLYI.

No. 175.

Memorandum communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Admiral Pothuau, February 13.

AU lieu de faire approuver les Actes de Délimitation de quelques-unes des Commissions Européennes instituées par le Traité de Berlin par les Représentants des Puissances à Constantinople, la Porte exprimerait le désir à la Chancellerie Russe de substituer à cette combinaison un échange de notes entre les Cabinets. Le Gouvernement Français est disposé à adhérer à cette proposition si elle est agréée par les autres Puissances.

No. 176.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 18.)

(No. 10. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Philibé, February 12, 1880.

THE Procureur-Général of the Criminal Court—a Bulgarian—called upon me to-day and expressed his intention of resigning since he could no longer struggle against baneful influence of Secret Committees, which paralyzed all justice in the province.

He said the accumulation of cases, due to impediments created by those Committees, would soon bring administration of justice to a standstill. He is decidedly of opinion that the infamous treatment of Mussulmans represents a systematic policy on the part of Committees.

He has protested against action of Government in the matter of attack on Turks at Hissar. The culprits, although known by all, are at large, and the four men in prison are merely accused of making a disturbance in a café.

He also said that authorities are trying to stifle inquiry into the forcible levy of contributions by the Committee. There is evidence of the imposts having been made in the name of the Emperor of Russia for war purposes.

The Director of Finance also confirms this.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 177.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 9. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, January* 31, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a Confidential despatch which I have written to his Excellency Sir Henry Layard, on the subject of the difference which has arisen between the Governor-General of Crete and the Mussulman Counsellor, Halil Bey. The origin of the dispute I explained in my despatch No. 7 of the 24th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S.—As the communications which I have addressed to your Lordship and to Her Majesty's Ambassador on the above subject contained information of a confidential nature, I have thought it advisable to give a brief report of it in a separate despatch No. 10, eliminating therefrom the confidential telegrams which passed between the Vali and the Porte.

T. B. S.

Inclosure in No. 177.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Canea, Crete, January* 30, 1880.

WITH reference to the insubordinate conduct of the Mussulman Counsellor, Halil Bey, as related in my last despatch, I had the honour to receive, on the evening of the 27th instant, your Excellency's telegram dated the same day, informing me that it had been suggested to you by high authority that Photiades Pasha should demand officially the recall of Halil Bey, if he had not done so already. The following morning I communicated this message to his Excellency, who had not only demanded Halil Bey's recall, but had the evening before received an answer to his demand from Said Pasha.

His Excellency reminded him that the Bey had been the man of his (the Vali's) choice, and he recommended him to renew his official relations with him, remarking that his recall was a matter for the Porte's consideration, and that an examination would be requisite before so extreme a measure was resorted to. When I saw Photiades Pasha he had already framed his reply to this latter telegram, in which he insisted on the necessity of Halil Bey's dismissal, it being impossible to overlook his insolent behaviour. He was gratified at learning from the terms of your Excellency's telegram that his wishes would be complied with, and since its receipt he is no longer in doubt as to the result.

Meanwhile, great irritation existed among the Christian Members of the Assembly, who had just arrived from all parts of the country to be present at its opening. They considered the Mushaver's conduct towards the Christian Governor-General as an insult to themselves, and the peasantry of the neighbouring district of Apokorona threatened, if the Porte retained him in his post, to make an armed demonstration against him. The irritation calmed down when it was known that the Vali refused all reconciliation with his Counsellor, who had gone to the length of menacing his Excellency with great insolence of manner.

There cannot be a doubt that Photiades Pasha was right in declining to continue his official relations with Halil Bey. Had he consented to do so he would have forfeited the respect of both communities, and, with the loss of his personal prestige, he would have totally lost his authority over either.

It is important that the Mushaver be ordered to leave the island with as little delay as possible, as he is only too likely to sow dissension between the Mussulman Members of the Assembly and their Christian colleagues.

I understand that the Prime Minister has also telegraphed to the Mushaver Bey, recommending him to make an apology to the Vali, as a condition of his retention of

his post; and the new Commander-in-chief personally called on his Excellency to beg him to receive him into favour again.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 178.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 10. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, January* 31, 1880.

I REGRET to have to report to your Lordship the occurrence of a dispute between Photiades Pasha, the Governor-General of this vilayet, and the Mussulman Counsellor, Halil Bey, the functionary next in rank to his Excellency.

Halil Bey had latterly taken upon himself to interfere unduly in the Local Administration, and particularly in judicial matters, conduct which had called forth a rebuke from the Procureur-Impérial. Presuming on the influence among the Mussulmans which his position gives him, he went the length of intimating to the Pasha, with great insolence of manner, that unless he consented to accord him a certain demand he would give the necessary orders himself.

His Excellency at once refused to hold further official relations with him, and has demanded his recall.

The decided attitude taken by the Vali in this circumstance was necessary for the maintenance of his authority.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 179.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received January* 14.)

(No. 11. Political.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, January* 31, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the opening, on the 24th instant, of the annual session of the Cretan General Assembly.

The Vali caused to be printed and distributed among the members an address, in which he pointed out the progress already made in carrying out the laws voted at the last meeting of the Assembly, such as those relating to the organization of the gendarmerie, the reformation of the Tribunals, the division of the island into communes for the purposes of local administration, &c.; his Excellency reminded them, however, that much yet remained to be done, for the Courts of Law were without codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure, and the revenue having fallen far short of the demands made upon it, it had not been found possible to pay the police with the regularity desirable. Codes of Procedure, his Excellency informed them, had been already drawn up, and the first duty of the Assembly would be to examine them with a view to their adoption at as early a period as possible. In order to provide means for the regular payment of the gendarmes and public functionaries, a plan had been devised for issuing Treasury bonds, to the amount, I believe, of 4,000,000 piastres (30,769*l.*), which would suffice to tide over the financial difficulties until the tithes began to be collected in June or July.

Two preliminary meetings have already been held, and at the third, which is to take place to-morrow, the new Codes of Procedure, prepared by the Procureur-Impérial, will be submitted for the consideration of the assembled Deputies. Considerable anxiety exists as to the temper with which the Mussulmans will approach this important subject, which, it is feared, they may regard through the distorting medium of religious prejudice.

I have, &c.

(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 180.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 12. Political. Confidential.)

Salonica, February 2, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copies of a despatch, with two inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Layard, on the subject of affairs in Macedonia and Thessaly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 180.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Salonica, February 2, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of the 31st ultimo, relative to the military régime which afflicts this province, I have the honour to inclose to your Excellency extract of another letter from my correspondent at Serres, furnishing some further information on the subject.

I also beg leave to inclose to your Excellency extract of a private letter from Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth, in which he gives a most unsatisfactory account of the state of affairs in Thessaly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 180.

Letter from Mr. C. Langdon to Consul-General Blunt.

(Private.)
(Extract.)

Serres, January 26, 1880.

I MAY add, that from what I can learn from private sources and conversations, the above case (prisoners of Eleshnitza) is only one out of many which occur most frequently. The military, instead of going out to chastise the robbers, or so-called rebels, merely enter into the peaceful villages, and arrest the most respectable and well-to-do peasants under the most trifling pretexts; these poor people, being terrified, readily pay a sum to their captors to escape arrest and being brought to Serres. The alarm and anxious state of the villages may be easily imagined. They are equally terrified at the approach of the brigands, and their supposed-to-be protectors, the military. I am told there are fifty to sixty individuals, peasants of the best class, under arrest in Serres, most of them for trivial matters; they are from the villages of Skrigiova, Karlikioi, Krushowo, Lelovo, and Alistrati. The Turkish authorities, in so doing, are the worst enemies to themselves. Instead of encouraging the loyal, and terrifying the robbers, they do just the contrary.

Public opinion here ominously predicts the mountains, as soon as winter is over, will be filled with the malcontent population in arms.

Inclosure 3 in No. 180.

Letter from Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

(Private.)
(Extract.)

Volo, February 1, 1880.

ACTS of gross injustice are now being continually perpetrated by the civil and military authorities on the people. It is in vain for me to talk to them, they will not go straight. They seem to prefer a short and merry, to a long and tedious, time of it for themselves and country. Money is what each individual of them wants.

One case of injustice is worth knowing. I have been endeavouring for the last three months to obtain the release of seven respectable inhabitants of Milies and

Vizitcha, of whom Riza Bey somehow or other obtained information of their entertaining insurrectionary views, an accusation which has no foundation whatever.

Whilst at Larissa I urged upon Mahmoud Bey the necessity of being very careful in examining this matter, as it will cause much comment; and I also told him that I considered the men perfectly innocent.

Before leaving I also thought proper to obtain a promise from Chevket Pasha and Mahmoud Bey, that should they decide to pass a sentence of punishments on the prisoners, to let me know beforehand.

To my surprise, however, last Thursday evening a telegram from Larissa announced to me that the seven prisoners were, under a strong escort, on their way to Volo to be exiled; and during last night Mr.—— arrived post-haste from Larissa to relate to me the whole affair, having passed the prisoners on the way about three hours from Volo. I at once telegraphed to Idayet Pasha at Cardítza, begging him to prevent the departure of the prisoners until he examined the matter himself, to which he answered, in his first telegram, that he had complied with my wish; but, in a later one, tried to persuade me that it would be better for them to be sent to Constantinople. In the meanwhile no one knew what had become of the prisoners. The authorities actually ignored their arrival at Volo, but at last it was found out that they were not brought into town, and that a boat waited for them at the further end of the bay, and they were taken thence on board a man-of-war. As the affair caused a considerable amount of excitement, I thought best to ask my colleagues to join me in my efforts, which they readily did; and, after a meeting held in my bed-room—for I was ill in bed—we decided to address Idayet Pasha a collective telegram, requesting that the prisoners be retained here until the matter is better examined into.

The Pasha, I am glad to say, at once acquiesced, and it is now hoped that our conjoined efforts will end by the release of the prisoners.

No. 181.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 13. Political.)

Salonica, February 3, 1880.

My Lord,

RAMIZ EFFENDI, Inspector-General of Tribunals in the Vilayet of Salonica, will leave to-morrow for Cavalla. From there he will proceed to Drama and Nevrocop, and thence to Serres and other districts in this sandjak, with the object of instituting inquiries into the proceedings of the local Courts.

During a visit to this Consulate-General this morning he renewed the promise he had given me a few days ago, as I reported to your Lordship in my despatch No. 10 of the 31st ultimo, that he would avail himself of his visit to Nevrocop to make further inquiries respecting the eleven prisoners of the village of Eleshnitza in that district, and watch that their case should be fairly and impartially tried. He also, unofficially, placed in my hands the inclosed correspondence which he has had with the judicial authorities at Serres and Nevrocop relative to the above case, and from which your Lordship will learn that he has given some attention to the subject. I availed myself of Ramiz Effendi's call to recommend to him the desirableness of organizing a Commercial Court at Cavalla, as suggested by Dr. Pecchioli, the Acting British Vice-Consul at that place, in his despatch of the 17th ultimo, a copy of which I forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 9 of the 27th idem.

Ramiz Effendi kindly promised to give his attention to the subject during his stay at Cavalla, with a view to bring it under the consideration of the Minister of Justice, and I told him that I would request Dr. Pecchioli to furnish him with all useful information on that and other matters connected with the local Turkish Courts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 181.

Correspondence relative to Case of Eleven Prisoners of the Village of Eleshnitza.

(Translation.)

Telegraphic Despatch from the Assistant Prosecutor-General of Serres.

Serres, January 11, 1880.

IN my telegram I begged leave to reply to the Grand Vizirial letter, dated the 31st December last, asking for information on the Nevrocop and Menlik affair. A correct copy of the decision issued by the Court of First Instance has just arrived from the Kaïmakam of Nevrocop, and has been sent for your Excellency's information.

I have pointed out to the proper authorities the necessity of speedily instituting a thorough inquiry.

Decision of the Nevrocop Court of First Instance.

In note No. 12, communicated by the Assistant Prosecutor-General of Serres, it was pointed out that twenty-four Christian inhabitants of the villages of Eleshnitza, Covajubteha, Scovaboten, and Stamechista were arrested by Izzet Bey, the Commandant of the Nevrocop district, on the 22nd September, 1879, and have been in confinement ever since. They were charged with being members of insurrectionary Committees at Bansko, which cause sedition in the interior. In their houses were found concealed ten rifles, which were seized by the Imperial troops. As papers have been sent by Colonel Izzet Bey and the local Commission only to Serres and Salonica, and none of any kind to the Court of First Instance, and though the papers necessary for the investigation of the matter were seized by the Commission and sent to the Assistant Prosecutor-General on the 4th December, 1879, as no answer has been given up to the present time containing an inquiry into the case of these prisoners, the Court is undecided as to the point the inquiry has reached.

December 6, 1879.

The Kaïmakam of Nevrocop to the Governor of Serres.

The Court informs your Excellency of the matter in a minute to the note that was sent.

An answer by telegraph from the Vali, as soon as possible, on this and other matters, is requested.

December 6, 1879.

Ramiz Effendi, Inspector-General of Tribunals, to the Assistant Prosecutor-General at Serres.

As imprisonments when there is no sentence are illegal, with reference to the persons referred to in Decision 121 of the 11th January, 1880, of the Nevrocop Court of First Instance, if there is any judicial result from the inquiries instituted into the case up to the present time, forward the papers at once to the Prosecutor-General here, and it is my duty to warn you that if there is none you are responsible, in conformity with Article 123 of the Criminal Code, for having neglected for the past four months the proper examination of their case.

No. 182.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 14. Political.)

My Lord, *Salonica, February* 3, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a letter which reached me this morning from Colonel Synge, giving some account of the condition of the Mahommedan refugees in the district of Nevrocop, near the Bulgarian frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 182.

Colonel Synge to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Nevrocop, January* 24, 1880.

I ARRIVED here on the 22nd instant, my journey being somewhat longer on account of the heavy fall of snow. I received your note and bundle of papers, for which many thanks. I find here that the Government is now feeding all the most needy of the refugees, in number 3,600, from the tithe of rye in the district, giving daily half an oke of grain to each adult and 100 drams to each child.

The quantity of tithe rye in the district is about 16,000 Stamboul kilés (about a bushel each), which at the present rate of distribution will suffice until the month of April.

There is also great want among the natives, in some cases being reduced to eating clay mixed with a small portion of flour. Amongst the poorer also the Government is leaving the tithe at a somewhat reduced price, but later on, unless some work is offered, I fear the distress will be most severe. If only work could be found, such as making a road from here to Cavalla viâ Drama, it would be the means of saving many from want.

The unprecedented severity of the winter, following as it is on a total failure of the harvest in many places, and everywhere on a short yield, considerably aggravates the distress.

As long as the tithes of rye suffice for the subsistence of the refugees it would not be advisable to increase their allowance, but clothing and blankets would be most serviceable. It is questionable whether the easiest means of sending such from Constantinople would not be by rail to Bazardjik, whence by mule here it is two days' journey, or now perhaps three. A local Commission superintends the distribution of breadstuff, which is issued monthly.

The Kaïmakam, Nouri Effendi, is most unsparing in his efforts to promote the welfare of the refugees, and his arrangements work well. Any consignment of blankets, jackets, or other warm clothing, could be safely intrusted to his care for distribution.

I leave for Djuma (where I hear there is much distress and sickness) to-morrow viâ Raslog, but from the depth of snow on the road the date of my arrival there must be uncertain.

It seems open which is the best route for clothing from Constantinople, but all things considered viâ Cavalla seems the most possible and feasible, but a special permit for the custom-house should be obtained.

I shall return to Serres viâ Melnik. Any instructions had better await me at the former.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HY. SYNGE.

No. 183.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February* 13, 1880, 8 P.M.

COUNT MAFFEI informed me this afternoon that Baron Haymerle had a few days since announced to the Italian Ambassador at Vienna the intention of Austrian Government to send back to the Tyrol three or four battalions which had been quartered there before the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; that this measure had been decided on in consequence of alarm created in Austria by the proceedings of the Italia Irredenta Association; that the Austrian Government had full confidence in intention of Italian Government to repress any overt act of this Association, but deemed it necessary to guard against possibility of any sudden raid. Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs said that he only mentioned this in a confidential and

unofficial form, in order to prevent any misinterpretation in Italy; that in point of fact no explanation was necessary, as the measure was simply one of internal police, and he hoped his motives would be appreciated.

Italian Government have expressed surprise and regret, stating that they had hoped they had given sufficient proof of their intention to repress any movement of the Italia Irredenta, which has been at no time less active than now, and of their wish to cultivate most friendly relations with Austria; that they therefore consider this measure, which will not fail to create a bad impression in Italy, unnecessary.

Subject already discussed in Italian press.

No. 184.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 13, 1880, 2·30 P.M.

SULTAN has requested me to obtain suppression of a Turkish paper called the "Umid," published in Cyprus, which His Majesty says contains articles exceedingly insulting to him, and calculated to injure friendly relations between the two countries. Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs has also asked for the extradition of editor. His Majesty expresses anxiety that the [group wrong; ? fifth] number of the paper should not be allowed to appear. What answer do you wish me to give?

No. 185.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 14, 3·40 P.M.)

(No. 63.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 14, 1880, 1·6 P.M.

MR. MICHELL telegraphs that Governor-General has appointed M. Kissiakoff Minister of Finance. Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that the nomination will not be confirmed.

No. 186.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 14, 3·15 P.M.)

(No. 64.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 14, 1880, 2·15 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Minister informs me that Austrian Consul at Philippopoli has telegraphed to him that the Eastern Roumelian Government have notified that henceforth the Capitulations will not be recognized in judicial matters. He suggests that I should call a meeting of Representatives of Signatory Powers to consider the expediency of addressing a joint remonstrance on the subject to the Porte. Will you let me know what step you think it desirable for me to take?

No. 187.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received Febeuary* 14, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 12.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, February* 14, 1880, 2·45 P.M.

BULGARIAN journals state Kissiakoff, previously rejected by Porte, has again been named Director of Justice by Aleko Pasha. He commenced functions yesterday.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 188.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1880, 6·30 P.M.

CAPTAIN SALE informs us that Riza Pasha, of whom he otherwise thinks highly, is obstinately determined against coming to any agreement with Montenegro, and is a very dangerous adviser for the Porte in the matter, as he will discourage any compromise.

No. 189.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, February* 14, 1880.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 28th about recognition of Roumania, French Minister for Foreign Affairs says he has been all along in communication with the Austrian Ambassador, and does not think Austria cares to intervene. At any rate, he hopes you will proceed with the matter now, and instruct Mr. White to present the note, in conjunction with his colleagues, on the 20th. He says that Germany has accepted that date without any observation.

He is anxious for an immediate answer from you.

No. 190.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, February* 14, 1880.

COUNT MAFFEI asked me yesterday if I had not been instructed to make a proposal from Her Majesty's Government for settling the Greek frontier question. He had heard of it from Paris, and that the French Government had accepted it. He made no doubt that Italy would do so also.

No. 191.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 65.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 14, 1880.

FOLLOWING from Consul-General Blunt, dated 14th:—

"Governor-General received yesterday telegrams from Seres and Monastir, stating that armed bands have begun to cross over into Macedonia from Kustendil in Bulgaria. Porte should not neglect to send more troops to this province, above all, an energetic and experienced commander; it is rumoured that Safvet Pasha will be sent to Cossova, and that Shefket Pasha will take his place as Commander-in-chief here."

No. 192.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 66.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 14, 1880.

FOLLOWING from Consul-General Blunt, dated 14th:—

"I will report relating to proposed new inquiry into Oglo case as soon as I receive Mr. Longworth's opinion on the subject."

No. 193.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 15, 1880, *midnight.*

YOU should present your credentials and the identic note, together with your French and German colleagues, on the 20th.

It may be useful that you should let it be understood that Austria has pressed the recognition of Roumania earnestly on the three Powers.

No. 194.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 29.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 15, 1880, *midnight.*

I HAVE instructed Mr. White, by telegraph, that he is to present the identic note, together with his credentials, on the 20th, together with his French and German colleagues.

No. 195.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 15, 1880, *midnight.*

WE have instructed Mr. White to present credentials and identic note at Bucharest on the 20th.

No. 196.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 16.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 15, 1880.

I HAVE to instruct you to present your credentials appointing you Her Majesty's Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Roumania, as well as the identic note drafted by M. de Freycinet, on the 20th instant, together with your French and German colleagues.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 197.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 147.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 15, 1880.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 10 of the 14th instant on the subject of the recognition of Roumania, and I have to inform your Excellency that I have instructed Mr. White by telegram that he is to present the identic note with his credentials on the 20th instant, together with his French and German colleagues.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 198.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.[a]

(No. 58.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 15, 1880.

THE French Government having suggested that the identic note in which the Western Powers recognize the independence of Roumania should be presented at Bucharest on the 20th instant, and the German Government having agreed to that date, we have also signified our concurrence. Instructions have been sent to Mr. White, who will also on the day named present his credentials as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 199.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 21. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, January* 30, 1880.

I HAD the honour to inform your Lordship by telegraph to-day that Nihat Pasha and Fazli Effendi, the Commissioners appointed by the Porte for the settlement of the questions relating to Vakouf and State property in Bulgaria, had had the honour of being received by the Prince.

Nihat Pasha, with whom I had been acquainted in Constantinople, called on me the same afternoon, and told me that he was very much gratified at the friendly and cordial reception he had met with from the Prince, who assured him of his desire to do all in his power to facilitate the discharge of the mission confided to them. At the same time, His Highness did not conceal from him that he thought it would have been more courteous on the part of the Porte to have given him some notice of its intention, and said that, had it done so, he would have suggested the advisability of postponing the arrival of the Commissioners until his return from St. Petersburgh, and thus have spared them a six week's stay in Sophia, during which, as the Prince announced his intention of taking a personal part in their labours, nothing more than the preliminary arrangements can be got through.

Nihat Pasha assured the Prince that the Porte, far from wishing to show him any discourtesy, had intended a compliment in sending an officer of high rank to announce his mission by word of mouth, instead of doing so by telegram.

According to Nihat Pasha, His Highness appeared satisfied with this explanation, which has at any rate the merit of being ingenious.

His Highness agreed to name two Commissioners on his part, but they are not to begin their work until the Prince's return.

Subsequently to writing my despatch No. 17 of the 27th instant, I learned that M. Natchovitz had called on the Austrian Agent, and had spoken to him more bitterly than he had done to me of the conduct of the Porte in not notifying the arrival of the Commission, and seemed much inclined to advise the Prince not to receive it.

Count Khevenhüller advised his Excellency strongly not to risk any complication with the Porte by refusing to receive its Commissioners, and in this he was afterwards supported by the German Agent, though the latter views the arrival of Nihat Pasha with but little favour, as he attributes to it the recent refusal of his application for leave of absence.

Count Khevenhüller also told me that M. Davidov had spoken to him strongly on the same subject, and had asked what would have been said if Russia had sent an Imperial Commissioner. To this Count Khevenhüller very justly replied that the position of the Sultan, as Suzerain of the Prince, was different to that of the Czar, and that Russia has already in the country more than one *de facto* Commissioner.

Now that the Bulgarian Commissioners have been appointed the incident may be considered closed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

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[a] An identic despatch was sent to Sir H. Elliot.

No. 200.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 22. Secret.)
Sophia, February 3, 1880.

My Lord,

AS I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship to-day, His Highness Prince Alexander left Sophia this morning for St. Petersburgh viâ Bucharest and Vienna, stopping but a short time at each of these places in order to assist at the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the accession of the Emperor of Russia. His Highness was accompanied by most of his suite, and by M. Davidoff, who will, however, leave him at Vienna.

As I learned that the rest of my colleagues had asked for audiences to take leave of the Prince, I did so also and had the honour of being received yesterday in the afternoon.

His Highness, after some conversation on ordinary topics, spoke to me of the arrival of Nihat Pasha, using much the same language as he had done to his Excellency, as reported in my despatch No. 21 of the 30th ultimo. He spoke without any signs of irritation, but I could perceive that he felt the slight which had been put upon him, and I may venture, perhaps, to suggest that the Porte should be warned of the impolicy of venting its pique at having lost Bulgaria in petty insults to the Prince, for the only hope that the Mussulmans have of obtaining justice and good treatment lies in the personal influence of His Highness, who assured me of his sympathy with them, and of his firm resolution to execute the solemn promises he had made to Her Majesty the Queen.

I told His Highness that I was convinced of his good intentions, and that I had frequently received from Mussulmans assurances of their gratitude and devotion.

He then said that he had named his Commissioners to work with Nihat Pasha, but that he had requested them not to begin till his return, which would be in about six weeks, as the question was one in which he took great interest, and in which he would devote his best personal attention.

He said that another question which would give a great deal of trouble was that of the restitution to Bulgarians of the lands seized at the time of the Circassian immigration, and to which a variety of conflicting claims had been put forward.

His Highness did not allude in any way to the intention which he is supposed to entertain of endeavouring to obtain the Emperor's consent to some modifications in the Constitution, but I have good authority for believing that he will do so, as he finds the difficulties of his position increasing daily. Your Lordship may have noticed in the "Times" of the 19th a letter on this subject from its correspondent at Bucharest, who claims to have had a considerable share in the framing of the Constitution, and who attributes to Russia's intrigues, and to her wish to govern the country through the Prince as being young and weak, the idea of increasing his powers. The writer of this letter is a Mr. Grant, who, in his quality of American, was, I believe, consulted by some of the Delegates at Tirnova with Republican tendencies, but he is inspired by the Radical party here, and the letter is a tissue of misrepresentations from beginning to end.

All reasonable persons are agreed that the Constitution in its present form is impracticable here. It might, perhaps, work in a highly civilized country long accustomed to govern itself, but in a country like Bulgaria, where persons having any acquaintance with the principles of government are hardly to be found, and where the masses, from their successful attempts to aid themselves first of the Greek clergy, and then of their Turkish rulers, have learnt to consider all constituted authorities their natural enemies, it can but lead to anarchy and revolution or the abdication of the Prince.

The key of the policy of the "National party" is to be found in the advice given by the Russian Consul to the Governors of Varna and Rustchuk, as reported by Mr. Dalziel in his despatch No. 1 of the 7th ultimo, and forwarded in my despatch No. 19 of the 28th of the same month, and their watchwords are hatred and mistrust of all foreigners, especially England and Austria.

If I may be allowed to express an opinion, I would venture to say that the time will soon arrive when the Powers who have entrusted the Government of Bulgaria to Prince Alexander will have to decide whether they will strengthen his hands and aid him in his efforts to rule in accordance with their intentions in doing so, or whether the country is to be left in the hands of the Russian revolutionary party, and become the source of fresh troubles in the East.

Until such time as a governing class is formed in Bulgaria, and the people taught to respect the principle of authority, a strong and firm Government is absolutely necessary,

and I conceive that I should not be doing my duty if I did not report to your Lordship what I hear on all sides.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 201.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 61.)
Vienna, February 8, 1880.

My Lord,

AS Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople reported that Count Corti was rather afraid of urging upon the Porte the new scheme for the settlement of the Turco-Montenegrin frontier difficulty, to which his Austrian colleague did not appear favourable, I telegraphed to Sir H. Layard that Count Dubsky has been informed that no objection to the principle of the project is felt here.

There appeared, therefore, no room for Count Corti to relax his efforts, although the Austrian Government will not give the proposal any active support or move in the matter at all till they are better informed of its exact nature than they at present are.

The Italian Ambassador here represents the proposal as emanating entirely from the Porte, his own Government having confined themselves to making it known to the Prince of Montenegro, without expressing any opinion in its favour or making any attempt to bring about its adoption.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

P.S.—I inclose the translation of a telegram which has been sent to Count Dubsky on this subject.

H. E.

Inclosure in No. 201.

Baron Haymerle to Count Dubsky.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, February 7, 1880.

THE English Cabinet has communicated to us the general outlines of the proposal which the Porte has made to Montenegro through the mediation of Italy. Until we know its details we cannot express ourselves definitively. As far as we understand it, it appears to us to correspond in general to a combination recommended by M. von Lippich, upon which he based his reasoning (Annex 1 to Protocol 9 of the Delimitation Commission). In principle, therefore, we have no objection to such a project, and we urgently desire the settlement of the question in a peaceful manner.

It does not, however, appear to us advisable to abandon the attitude of reserve which we have maintained, or to leave the ground of the Treaty of Berlin, until we are acquainted with all details of the new combination, and until it is decided that an arrangement upon this basis is actually possible.

We have also some regard for the fate of the Catholic tribes of Albania.

No. 202.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 64.)
Vienna, February 9, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Austrian Government have received from their Minister at Cettinjé a map upon which is marked out the frontier that will be proposed by the Porte for the settlement of the question of the districts to be ceded by the two States, as well as the line that the Prince is disposed to agree to.

There is a considerable discrepancy between the two, as the Turkish line would leave to Albania a tract of country from the Sem to near Vardar, which by the Montenegrin line would be included in the Principality.

This line would follow the southern branch of the Sem, passing by Kuba and Gradac, at no great distance from Gusinjé and the Lake of Plava.

The Austrian Minister also says that the Prince will require a pecuniary indemnity from the Porte, and a guarantee from the Powers.

With regard to the former, I understand that this Government will make no objection to it if the Porte is willing to pay it, but as respects the guarantee, they are still uninformed as to what the Prince means by it, and they appear little inclined to enter into any engagement relating to the arrangement to be come to.

I have said that I felt pretty sure that Her Majesty's Government would not be more disposed than they are to commit themselves by any pledge or guarantee by which they might hereafter be called upon to interfere by either of the two parties, but speaking for myself, and without any knowledge of what your Lordship might think of it, I did not see that inconvenience could result if the different Governments were to give the Prince an assurance that, in the event of the compromise being agreed to between himself and the Porte, their Commissioners would be instructed to propose a frontier-line fairly carrying out the terms broadly stated in the arrangement.

The view taken by the Austrian Government of the present position of the question is that, as the Treaty has laid down the territories to be ceded to the Prince, he has a perfect right to insist upon receiving them, and that if the Porte makes proposals for the modification of the arrangements, it lies with him to decide whether the conditions proposed are sufficiently advantageous to induce him to consent to the exchange.

The Imperial Government appear to consider the matter as one to be settled between the two parties interested, and they are not disposed to use pressure to bring about the adoption of anything except the Treaty arrangement.

I have, however, suggested that they might at least intimate to the Prince that they would gladly see him come to an understanding with the Porte such as would be likely to promise an early settlement of a critical question, and this, I hope, may be done.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 203.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 72.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February* 11, 1880.

I HAVE communicated your Lordship's telegram of last night to M. de Radowitz, and stated to his Excellency that Her Majesty's Government concurred in the proposal that the note drafted by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, laying down the conditions on which the Governments of England, Germany, and France are willing to recognize the independence of Roumania should be adopted by the three Governments for communication to the Roumanian Government, and that your Lordship had already instructed Her Majesty's Agent (Mr. White) to act in concert with the Representatives of Germany and France at Bucharest.

M. de Radowitz said that he would inform the Prince Chancellor, who equally desired to act in concert with England and France in recognizing the independence of Roumania, as I have already had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 65 of the 5th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 203*.

The Armenian Archbishop of Aintab to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

My Lord, *The College, Durham, February* 12, 1880.

MAY I as a Turkish subject, but a member of the Church of England, crave your Lordship's favourable consideration of my statement and petition?

I was Armenian Archbishop and Vice-Catholicos of the Armenian Convent of Sis in Armenia, but more than fourteen years ago, being unable to effect reforms in the Armenian Church, I united myself with the Church of England, whose formularies I use, and I have been acknowledged by the Anglican Bishop of Jerusalem and by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

I have over 300 adherents in Aintab, where I reside, and several thousands more in other places.

Having received help towards the building of my church, I was unable to secure a Firman for the purpose until, six years after my first application, after waiting myself twenty-two months in Constantinople, Sir Henry Elliot most kindly obtained it for me. My means being exhausted I have come to England to seek aid to complete the church for which I have this Firman.

Besides my people at Aintab there are at Adana, Sis, Antioch, Aleppo, Adiaman, Marach, Diarbeker, Kesab, Kilis, Severeg, Harputi, Zeytun, Beregiat, Sivas, and other towns, many Armenian bishops, priests, and lay people desirous to join with me, and I have with me their petitions to unite in a reformed Armenian Church.

But unfortunately I am unable to assist them for want of a Firman permitting us to be classed and taxed as a reformed Episcopal community.

All other religious bodies are recognized and permitted to pay their taxes separately. The converts of the Presbyterian, Congregationalist, and Baptist missionaries have this recognition, which has not yet been granted to those who are in communion with the Church of England; and we decline to class ourselves with these non-Episcopal sects.

The consequence is that we are counted as under the Armenian Patriarch, and suffer grievous oppression from his officials, who extort from our adherents three and four times the amount of taxes paid by their own people, and we have no redress. The exactions to which we are exposed are insupportable, and are taken by force.

What I humbly pray, therefore, is that your Lordship would be pleased to recommend Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte to use his good offices (which have already been successfully employed to obtain the Firman for the building of my church, and for my partial recognition) to obtain for me a Firman—firstly, recognizing me as an Archbishop of the Reformed Armenian Church in communion with the Church of England; and secondly, granting my people the right enjoyed by every other sect of the Turkish Empire, of having our taxes assessed separately, and free from the exactions of our bitter enemies.

It is a great hardship, and contrary to the proclamation of religious liberty to all in the Turkish dominions, that those in communion with the Church of England should alone be without the protection granted to the followers of every Protestant sect.

I am well known to the Archbishop of Canterbury, who has given me official letters of recognition; and I also brought a letter of recommendation from Sir Henry Layard, Her Majesty's Ambassador, who is acquainted with my position, to Lord Tenterden.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SH. M. ARMERIAN MIGHERDICH, *Archbishop of the Episcopal Reformed Church at Aintab.*

No. 204.

The Earl of Dufferin to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 73.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 12, 1880.

I GATHERED from what fell from M. de Giers to-day that the Russian Government is not disposed to regard with disfavour the recent project for the settlement of the Gusinjé question, and that it will be also glad to acquiesce in any settlement of the Greek frontier which may approve itself to the other European Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 205.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, February* 15, 1880.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 11th instant, Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs has told Turkish Chargé d'Affaires that Greek Government was disposed to accept favourably the idea of an International Commission to be appointed to trace a new line of frontier.

Turkish Chargé d'Affaires has communicated this unofficially to his Government.

No. 206.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 13. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, February* 15, 1880.

THE Bulgarians are openly exulting at defeat of English policy by reappointment of person mentioned last.

There is little doubt that, to escape anticipated appointment of a foreigner who would be a supporter of Director of Finance and the Commander-in-chief, Russia has assisted the Bulgarians in obtaining the nomination of a Bulgarian Director of Justice, although his utter unfitness is well known.

The success of the Secret Committees will be complete unless nomination is at once publicly cancelled, and the Governor-General called to account.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 207.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 16, 1880, 2·40 P.M.

YOUR No. 64.

Until there is a proof of miscarriage of justice, I would not press the Capitulations in respect to Eastern Roumelia.

It has never been our policy to lay so much stress on them as other Powers have done. In any well-ordered Government they would be a monstrous impediment to the administration of justice, and nothing can justify them in Turkey except the abuses prevalent under Turkish rule.

No. 208.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 16, 6 P.M.)

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, February 16, 1880, noon.*

I HAVE made arrangements for presenting identic note on the 20th with the French and German Gérants of the Consulates-General. These gentlemen, having been sent provisionally here, can only become Chargés d'Affaires *ad interim*, whilst I propose, with your Lordship's leave, presenting my credentials at the same time, otherwise my relations would have to be suspended if I were to wait for colleagues not yet appointed, as I have never been regularly admitted to act as Consul-General in Roumania.

I beg to suggest that my appointment appear in the "Gazette" on the same day, being Friday, and that Mr. Blunt should be instructed to join his post at Kustendje, as I presume I can apply for an exequatur for him now.

No. 209.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 112.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 16, 1880.*

I HAVE had under my consideration your Excellency's telegram of the 15th instant, suggesting that you should call together a meeting of the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin to consider the expediency of addressing a joint remonstrance to the Porte relative to the alleged intention of the Government of Eastern Roumelia henceforth not to recognize the Capitulations in judicial matters.

In reply, I have to state to your Excellency that I do not consider it desirable to press for the observance of the Capitulations as to judicial administration in respect to Eastern Roumelia, until there is a proof of some miscarriage of justice.

Other Powers have attached a larger meaning to the Capitulations than has been done by Her Majesty's Government. They would be a most serious impediment to the administration of justice in any well-governed country, and the only justification for them in the Ottoman dominions is the existence of the grave judicial abuses prevalent under Turkish rule.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 210.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 129.)
My Lord, *Paris, February 16, 1880.*

HAVING this morning had the honour to receive your Lordship's telegram No. 29 of yesterday, I have informed M. de Freycinet that in conformity with his wishes your Lordship has sent by telegraph to the British Representative at Bucharest instructions to the effect that he is to present to the Roumanian Government the identic note announcing the recognition of the Principality, and also his credentials, simultaneously with his French and German colleagues, on the 20th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 211.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 14. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, February 17, 1880.*

ON strong representation of Director of Finance at Special Council yesterday, Local Government has resolved to proceed energetically against the Secret Committees.

A Proclamation will be immediately issued, and kept posted in every village during four weeks, prohibiting the collection of money without authority of the Government, and threatening unauthorized collectors with severe punishment.

Prefects will be ordered to sequestrate funds held by the Committees.

The money will be employed by Government in Departments for the benefit of Bulgarians.

The Secretary-General has been ordered to communicate to the Prefects the Ordinance for the dissolution of the Gymnastic Societies, which are to deliver over their stores of ammunition at once.

The Secretary-General showed opposition to above measures, but all the other Directors admitted the baneful influence of the Committees, and impossibility of carrying on the Government of the province under such circumstances.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 212.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 17.)

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 17, 1880.*

THE Council of Ministers agreed yesterday to a proposal for the settlement of the Gusinjé question which differs considerably from the considerations put forward by the Prince of Montenegro. Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs and Count Corti are, however, hopeful that a compromise can be come to.

The decision of the Council was to be sent to the Sultan to-day for his approval.

(Sent to Vienna.)

No 213.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 17, 1880, 4 P.M.*

WHEN may we expect to receive translation of new Organic Law mentioned in your despatch No. 1134 of the 19th December?

Will there be any objection to its being laid before Parliament?

No. 214.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 31.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 17, 1880, 6 P.M.*

WE accept French Minister for Foreign Affairs' interpretation of our proposition on the Greek frontier, only observing that, though the Commission is at liberty to depart from the precise geographical points indicated in a general manner in the 13th Protocol, its decisions, in order to bind by vote of majority all the Signatory Powers, must be in general conformity with the spirit and intention of that Protocol.

No. 215.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February 17, 1880, 6·30 P.M.*

YOURS No. 9.

You should present your credentials as you propose.

Your appointment will be gazetted next Friday.

You can also apply for recognition of Mr. Blunt.

No. 216.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 150.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February 17, 1880.*

THE French Ambassador has communicated with me in the sense of the despatch of the French Minister for Foreign Affairs upon the Greek question, inclosed in your Excellency's despatch No. 117 of the 12th February. I am happy to find that, on consideration, the French Government are disposed to accept the proposal that we have made, as I am convinced that it will lead more speedily than any other to a solution of the vexed question which it is the interest of all parties to bring to a conclusion. In the main I think M. de Freycinet has accurately interpreted the views of Her Majesty's Government in suggesting that the new Greek frontier, to be proposed by the Powers, under the 13th Protocol of Berlin, to Turkey and Greece, should be studied and determined on the spot by an International Commission, similar to those which have laboured in other provinces. There are, however, some expressions employed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs which are capable of an ambiguous interpretation, and which we could not accept without more precisely indicating the signification of the proposals we have made.

M. de Freycinet says: "Le Cabinet de Londres, tout en indiquant comme base de discussion le Protocole 13 du Congrès de Berlin, admet que la Commission Internationale dont il propose la réunion pourra s'écarter au besoin de cette base et adopter tel autre tracé qu'elle jugerait préférable dans l'intérêt des deux parties. Les décisions seraient prises à la majorité des voix.

"Il résulte de là que la Commission demeurera libre de fixer, comme point de départ de ses travaux, soit la ligne transactionnelle proposée par M. Waddington au mois de Décembre dernier, soit toute autre ligne qui constituerait un compromis acceptable entre les intérêts divergents de la Turquie et de la Grèce."

These words might be interpreted as conferring upon the Commission a mandate larger than we contemplated, or than they could possibly receive under the Protocols of Berlin. It is only in virtue of the 13th Protocol that we are engaged in the operation of recommending the transfer of territory from one independent Power to another; and it is only by virtue of that Protocol that we have a right to urge upon the two Powers to listen to our advice on such a matter. The Commission will take the 13th Protocol for its point of departure; but as its whole authority will be derived from that instrument, it clearly will not have a right to adopt decisions at variance with its general spirit and meaning. I do not intend by this observation to restrict the Commission to the precise geographical points mentioned in the Protocol. The line, avowedly, was a general recommendation, and, as such, may be legitimately varied so long as the spirit of the recommendation is observed. It is probable that the French Minister for Foreign Affairs meant to convey no more than this; but his language in saying that the Commission "might depart from the base of the Protocol, and adopt any other line which it thought preferable in the interest of the two parties," is capable of a much wider interpretation, which would, in our judgment, be inadmissible. These words, taken strictly, would permit any four Powers on the Commission to recommend the transfer of the whole of Turkey in Europe to the Kingdom of Greece, if they thought it preferable in the interest of the two Powers; and it would then be the duty of the Powers constituting the minority to support that recommendation. In our view, it would be incumbent on the Commission to adhere, in its decision, to the general proportion of territorial advantages indicated in the Protocol of Berlin, and not to depart from it to any important extent. We should desire to fix with great liberality the scope of its powers, but we could not leave out of sight that they take their origin from the 13th Protocol, and must be exercised in the spirit and with the views which dictated the course of the Plenipotentiaries on that occasion.

Subject to these observations, we receive gladly the adhesion of the French Government to our proposition, and propose to communicate it without delay to the Powers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 217.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Károlyi.

Dear Count Károlyi, *Hatfield, February 17, 1880.*

I OUGHT to have thanked you earlier for the note which you were good enough to write to Mr. Currie on the 11th instant relative to the proposals made by Russia to your Government on the subject of the Montenegrin frontier. Baron Haymerle's refusal to come to a separate agreement with Russia on such a matter is in exact accordance with our views, and has given us the greatest satisfaction. Pray convey to his Excellency the expression of my thanks for his assurance that he will continue in constant communication with us.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 219.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 18.)

(No. 16. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, February 6, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch, with copies of its three inclosures, I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the subject of the orders which have been received by the local Military Courts to extend their jurisdiction to foreigners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 219.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, February 6, 1880.*

On the 4th instant I sent to your Excellency a telegram worded as follows:—

"Received official communication from Governor-General, stating that Military Courts have received orders to extend their jurisdiction to foreigners. Have replied that I cannot consent to this without an order from your Excellency.

"It would not be at all safe to accept this measure."

On the following day I received your Excellency's answer, worded thus:—

"In reply to your telegram of yesterday, you should not consent but protest against extension of Military Courts to foreigners."

I now beg leave to inclose copies of my correspondence with the Governor-General on the above subject.

I shall communicate your Excellency's instruction to the British Vice-Consuls in Thessaly and Epirus, where the state of seige is still in force.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 219.

Circular from the Governor of Salonica to the Foreign Consuls at Salonica.

(Translation.)
To the British Consul-General, Salonica. 19 *Sefer*, 1297 (*January* $\frac{1}{31}$, 1880.)

IN reply to a request made concerning trials of foreign subjects by martial law in Courts-martial, a telegram sent from the Ministry of War states that foreigners may be tried before Courts-martial, but the Consulates of foreign Powers are to be informed of it, and in conformity with Treaties, the decisions given by a Court-martial when the Consul or his Delegates are absent from the trial, shall be null and void.

The Circular note dated the $\frac{7}{5}$th August, 1293, and proclaiming martial law

throughout the Province of Salonica, was duly communicated to the Consuls of friendly Powers.

(L.S.) HALLIL REFAAT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 219.

Consul-General Blunt to Hallil Refaat Pasha.

Salonique, le 4 Février, 1880.

Excellence,

JE m'empresse de répondre à la Circulaire de votre Excellence en date du 31 écoulé, qu'il m'est de toute impossibilité de consentir à l'application de la loi martiale aux sujets de Sa Majesté Britannique sans un ordre de son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté à Constantinople.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 219.

Consul-General Blunt to Hallil Refaat Pasha.

Salonique, le 6 Février, 1880.

Excellence,

RELATIVEMENT à la Circulaire de votre Excellence en date du 31 écoulé, par laquelle elle porte à la connaissance du Corps Consulaire que les sujets étrangers seront soumis à la loi martiale en vigueur en cette province, il est du devoir de ce Consulat-Général de protester, comme par les présentes il proteste, contre une mesure qui est nuisible aux intérêts des sujets de Sa Majesté Britannique établis dans cette ville ou dans l'intérieur.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 220.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 17. Political.)

Salonica, February 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch, with copies of its two inclosures, which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of the Roumanian propaganda in Macedonia, referred to in Sir Henry Layard's despatch No. 1007 of the 12th December, 1879, a copy of which was inclosed in your Lordship's despatch to me No. 2 of the 12th ultimo, and in mine to your Lordship No. 6 of the 20th idem.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 220.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, February 9, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Excellency translated copies of a letter from the Greek Archbishop of Salonica, and of a Circular protest issued by the Greek community to the Consuls in this city.

It appears that a Report, attributed to the Roumanian Consul here, containing statistics, according to which the population of Salonica, in number 120,000 or 125,000 souls, was composed of from 90,000 to 95,000 Jews, 15,000 or 20,000 Turks, 2,000 Koutzo-Vlachs, and 8,000 or 12,000 Bulgarians, was published in the official "Moniteur" of Bucharest, and copied in several Greek newspapers, with indignant comments on the assertion that there was no Greek element in this city.

The Greek community was greatly incensed at this Report, and in consequence assembled in the Archbishop's Palace and issued the Circular protest I have inclosed.

M. de Lincho, the Roumanian Consul here, has declared to me that he did not write the Report in question, and has sent a formal disclaimer, which has not yet been published, to the Greek newspaper in this town, the "Hermes."

I may add that to the best of my belief the total population of Salonica does not exceed 90,000 souls, of whom nearly 40,000 are Jews, and the remainder nearly equally divided between Turks and Christians.

In the Turks are included some 8,000 "Dunmes," or Jews converted to Mahommedanism; and the Christians, excepting foreigners, are, in the main, Greeks; the Bulgarian and Coutzo-Wallach, or Roumanian elements, are comparatively small.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 220.

Archbishop Callinicus to Consul-General Blunt.

(Translation.)

Illustrious Sir,

January 24, February 6, 1880.

THE Greek community in Salonica having been informed that in the official "Moniteur" of Bucharest were published statistics of the population of Salonica, forwarded by the Roumanian Consul here, according to which there is not a single Greek in this city, assembled in an extraordinary meeting at the Archiepiscopal Palace, and after having manifested its indignation, drew up the inclosed protest, which I send you for your information.

Receive, &c.
(Signed) CALLINICUS, *Archbishop of Salonica.*

Inclosure 3 in No. 220.

Circular Protest made by the Greek Community and sent to the Consuls at Salonica.

(Translation.)

CALLINICUS, Archbishop of Thessalonica, confirms this:—

The Greek community of Salonica having learnt that in a report to his Government, published in the official "Moniteur" of Bucharest, the Roumanian Consul here has thought proper to characterize our country as devoid of any Greek element, indignantly protests against this manifest distortion of the truth.

A community of 20,000 souls, with a Greek clergy, sixteen Greek churches, a Greek gymnasium, a Greek high school for girls, three Greek municipal and five elementary schools—all Greek—a community with 2,400 children taught Greek literature by Greek male and female teachers, which sends forth throughout Macedonia, and even to Thessaly and Thrace, teachers of Greek literature; which is so active and influential in Salonica that the Greek language reaches from one end of the city to the other; with a considerable number of men of science, letters, medicine, and law, a Syllogos, two brotherhoods, two printing presses, a newspaper, and two clubs, all Greek; what can it be thought or be but Greek?

History clearly proves the Greekness of our community, the whole civilized world recognizes it, and from its very first beginning it was recognized by our august Sovereign.

Salonica, January 25, February 7, 1880.

This is an exact copy.
(Signed) A. PALÆOLOGUS, *Secretary.*
Salonica, January 24, February 5, 1880.

No. 221.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 18.)

(No. 18. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, February 9, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 13 of the 10th May, 1879, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of my despatch of this date to Sir Henry Layard, reporting that Colonel Hassan Bey, Chief of the Salonica police, has been dismissed, and is to be put on his trial on the charges preferred against him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 221.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, February 9, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Colonel Hassan Bey the Chief of Police in the Vilayet of Salonica, has been dismissed, and that Colonel Hadji Hakki Bey, Chief of Police in the Vilayet of Sivas, has been appointed in his room.

Colonel Hassan Bey, to whose misconduct I referred in my despatch to your Excellency of the 10th May, 1879,* is to be put on his trial on the charges preferred against him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 222.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 18.)

(No. 127.)
My Lord, *Paris, February 14, 1880.*

I SPOKE this afternoon to M. de Freycinet in the sense of your Lordship's telegram No. 28 of the day before yesterday, on the subject of the position of Austria with regard to the recognition of Roumania by Great Britain, France, and Germany.

M. de Freycinet said that he had been in communication with the Comte de Beust, the Austrian Ambassador here, and had kept him *au courant* of what had been going on. He had mentioned, in particular, to M. de Beust the draft note which he had proposed to England and Germany. M. de Beust had exhorted him to be speedy in recognizing, but had not expressed any desire on the part of the Austrian Government to take part in these recent proceedings.

M. de Freycinet had, therefore, no reason to think that Austria cared to intervene. On the other hand, Germany had, he said, accepted the date of the 20th February without observation; and he begged me to express to your Lordship his hope that there would be no farther delay, and to ask you to instruct the British Agent at Bucharest to present the identic note, in conjunction with his French and German colleagues, on the 20th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 223.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 18.)

(No. 56.)
My Lord, *Rome, February 14, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Count Maffei asked me yesterday whether I had not been instructed to make any proposal, on the part of Her

* Copy inclosed in Mr. Blunt's despatch No. 13, Political, of May 10, 1879, to Foreign Office.

Majesty's Government, upon the Greek frontier question. Count Maffei told me he had heard of such a proposal having been made in Paris, the particulars of which he mentioned, and said that it had been accepted by the French Government.

He made no doubt of the readiness of the Italian Government to agree to it also.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 224.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, February 18.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 17 février, 1880.*

LE Consul d'Angleterre à Prizrend a informé son Gouvernement que des assassinats et des vexations de toutes sortes se commettent à Ichtebe de la part des Musulmans sur les Chrétiens, et que 126 de ces derniers et un prêtre Catholique auraient trouvé la mort pendant les trois dernières années.

Il est vrai que quelques tentatives de meurtre, dont quatorze ont été suivies de mort, ont eu lieu dans ces parages durant les trois dernières années; mais ces actes constituent des faits isolés qui entrent dans le domaine des délits communs, et qui, eu égard aux années précédentes correspondantes, ne doivent point être considérés comme ayant eu un caractère extraordinaire. Du reste, la plupart des coupables qui ont été arrêtés et traduits devant les Tribunaux sont eux-mêmes Chrétiens. Quant à l'assassinat d'un prêtre Catholique, l'autorité n'en a aucune connaissance. D'ailleurs, il n'y a pas de prêtre Catholique à Ichtebe.

Les informations du Consul, puisées sans doute à des sources malveillantes, sont empreintes d'une exagération manifeste, et je prie votre Excellence de les démentir de la façon la plus catégorique. La tranquillité publique est parfaite dans ces localités, et la meilleure harmonie règne entre les Musulmans et les Chrétiens.

No. 225.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 18.)

(No. 69.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 18, 1880.*

YOURS No. 46.

A translation has not been made by the Porte of the new Organic Law, and I have nobody here to make one, the Dragomans being too occupied.

Consul Calvert at Adrianople is getting one done, and I have telegraphed to him to hasten on with it.

No. 226.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 18, 6 P.M.)

(No. 70. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 18, 1880, 2·12 P.M.*

PRIME MINISTER informs me that he has called Aleko Pasha to account, by telegraph, for appointment of Kissiakoff and connivance at violation of Treaty of Berlin and Organic Statute in many instances.

His Highness says that he has sent to Governor-General two very strongly worded telegrams on these subjects.

No. 227.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 10. Political.)

Salonica, January 31, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Consul-General Michell's despatch No. 369 of the 20th November, 1879, inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 6 of the 19th ultimo, on the subject of the alleged ill-treatment of which some of the inhabitants of the Bulgarian village of Eleshnitza, in Macedonia, are the object at the hands of the Ottoman local authorities, I have the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a letter, marked Confidential, which I have received from my correspondent at Serres, furnishing the result of the inquiries I had requested him to institute into the matter.

Ramiz Effendi, the Inspector-General of Tribunals in this Pashalik, to whom I communicated the substance of Mr. Michell's Report and that of my correspondent's letter, at once telegraphed to Nevrocop for information on the subject, and he told me that, as he has received complaints of alleged irregular and vexatious proceedings in other similar cases in the Sandjaks of Serres and Drama, he is about to visit the localities for the purpose of making an inquiry, and he hoped to be at Nevrocop in the course of the next ten days, when he will take care that the case of the eleven prisoners of Eleshnitza should be fairly and impartially investigated.

The military Pasha to whom my correspondent refers is the same individual whose misconduct I reported to Sir Henry Layard in my despatch of the 1st November, 1879, a copy of which I forwarded to your Lordship in my No. 68, Confidential, of the 5th November, 1879.

The Pasha in question was appointed to a military command in Jemen very shortly after the outrage he is accused of occurred, but it appears that, upon Sir Henry Layard representing the case to the Porte, orders were issued that he should be detained at Constantinople pending the result of inquiries into his alleged misconduct.

And the Vali of Salonica told me yesterday that the "Dossier" of the case has been forwarded to Constantinople, and that he has reason to believe that the Pasha's proceedings will be further investigated by a Court of Inquiry to be held at the War Office.

I should add that the Vali of Salonica and Ramiz Effendi have both strongly represented to the Porte the desirableness of suppressing the military Courts-martial in this vilayet, but it appears that the Seraskier, Osman Pasha, will not listen to the suggestion.

The continuance of the military régime has very much increased the discontent prevailing among the peaceable inhabitants of this province, and so far it has effected very little towards the suppression of brigandage. Attif Pasha, the present President of the Salonica Court-martial, a well-meaning and humane man, who on more than one occasion has set his face against undue severity, acknowledges that the present exercise of martial law is unsuited to the actual circumstances of the province, and tends to promote a condition of political unrest among the inhabitants. He too, I believe, has recommended its relinquishment to his chief, Safvet Pasha, the commander of the troops in Macedonia.

Peaceful villagers are arrested by the military on the most futile pretexts, and detained in custody many months without an opportunity being afforded them to prove their innocence.

There are at present more than 200 Christian and Turkish prisoners so circumstanced, many of whom, I am told, are free from guilt. I have had occasion to represent to the authorities cases illustrating this state of affairs, and I am bound to say that Ramiz Effendi, like his predecessor in office, Tahsin Effendi, has always shown a ready disposition to afford redress in all instances in which he could authoritatively interfere without coming into collision with the military.

Yesterday, upon my bringing under the notice of Ramiz Effendi a case in point, that of a Christian peasant of the Greek village of Rendina who was imprisoned without warrant or cause, he begged me to accompany him to the prison, and there, in my presence, made a searching inquiry, the result of which satisfied him that the man was wrongfully detained in custody. He there and then ordered his discharge, and the arrest of the Sub-Governor of the prison pending a further investigation of the matter.

The above will serve as a good example, but it is hopeless to expect any considerable improvement in the administration of justice in this province so long as Ramiz Effendi's energy and good intentions are hampered by the continuance of the present state of siege.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 227.

Mr. Langdon to Consul-General Blunt.

(Confidential.)

Serres, January 23, 1880.

Sir,

REGARDING the eleven individuals—Bulgarians—arrested by the Turkish authorities at Eleshnitza, I have learnt from authentic and trustworthy sources that those individuals, after their arrest, were sent to Serres to the military Commandant here. This functionary, without referring them to the "Temizi-Hokook" (local Criminal Court), to undergo examination, sent them on to Salonica.

The authorities there ordered that the prisoners should be sent back to Nevrocop, there to be tried. On this they were brought to Serres, and remained here about fifteen days. They alleged they were without food, and the Christian members of the Criminal Court induced the authorities to issue them rations whilst here and enough to last them on the road to Nevrocop.

During their stay here one of them fell ill. He was sent to the Greek hospital. After he got well, about six weeks ago, he and the rest were sent to Nevrocop. Since then nothing has been heard here about their fate. Had any sentence been passed on them there information would have been sent here, as also the prisoners, who would have to expiate [*sic*] their punishment at Serres, the capital of the sandjak. Therefore the prisoners must be still in Nevrocop.

If anything is to be done to alleviate the sufferings of these individuals it must be done quickly, else, the winter being very severe, they are likely to suffer great hardships.

The reason of their arrest was that they were suspicious characters.

The Ferik who ordered their being sent to Salonica has been dismissed. It was the same who ordered the thrashing of Kukos' father, under which he succumbed. He also had ordered bags filled with stones to be suspended round the necks of certain peasants of Vishnico, compelling them to stoop over the railings of a bridge while they were unmercifully bastinadoed, the reason being that two Turks were found murdered in the said village.

I have further to state that within the district of Serres and Nevrocop no rebels exist at all.

These districts were merely infested by a clique of brigands, some hundred individuals, who molested Christians more than the Turks.

The authorities gave these robbers the importance of rebels only to find a pretext for putting the peaceable inhabitants of the villages to trouble and extortion.

At present, owing to the severity of winter, the robbers are unable to commit their depredations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. LANGDON.

No. 228.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 11. Political.)

Salonica, February 1, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha has caused to be arrested and removed to Salonica the Hodja Abdul Effendi, who has been exciting, it is said, the Albanians of Uscup against the surrender of the districts of Gusinjé and Plava to Montenegro.

The Hodja is to be exiled to Diarbekir.

Mr. Consul St. John has arrived here from Constantinople, and will proceed to his post at Prisrend on the 3rd instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 229.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 19.)

(No. 37. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, February* 1, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the copy of a petition which was addressed to me on the 27th ultimo by a Bulgarian peasant deputed by the villages of Kara-Allan and Kozluk, in the neighbouring department of Haskeui, to represent to me that forced contributions of money were being levied by a Bulgarian named Georghi Hadji Ivancho, well known as the most prominent member of the Secret Committee at Haskeui.

The Delegate represents in his petition that a similar contribution was enforced last year, and he prays me to cause Hadji Ivancho to be punished, and the money collected both last year and this to be returned.

I have placed the petitioner in direct communication with the competent authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 229.

Petition from Petko Kostof.

(Translation.)

To the English Consul.

THE Undersigned, Petko Kostof, of the village of Kara-Allan, department of Haskeui, has been sent by that village, and by the villagers of the neighbouring village of Kozluk, in order to expose to the Consul the following (circumstances):—

A short time ago, Georgi Hadji Ivancho, of Haskeui, accompanied by the senior gendarme of the village of Dopuz (Delisiz), went to the village of Kozluk and collected by force about 200 liras for a purpose that is unknown to us, and without giving a receipt. From Kozluk the same person went to Bukovo (Utchbunar), and the gendarme Georgi was sent with orders, as stated by himself, to collect from the village and its 300 houses 300 liras.

He took from the village about 100 liras, but, as the village had not sufficient money to pay (what was demanded), they were forced to sell corn wheat at 40 piastres the kilé and aniseed at 1 piastre the oke; and if a villager refuses to give a deed of sale (for such corn) he was beaten unmercifully, and a deed of sale was taken from him by force, as happened in the neighbouring village of Kozluk.

We do not believe that the money demanded from us is required by the Government, since the collectors not only give no receipts for what they take, but collect with secrecy, saying that the Christians who belong to the Patriarchate must not know anything about it.

Therefore, as we do not wish to pay that money, and as we are certain that if we address a petition to the Governor-General, not only will no attention be paid to our petition, but if the Schismatic Bulgarians came to hear of it, they will ill-treat us in every way, as last year the Undersigned was ill-treated by Hadji Ivancho and narrowly escaped being hanged, Hadji Ivancho having said that one Greek more or less made no difference.

At the same time I declare that last year the same persons levied from our village about 250 silver roubles for an unknown purpose.

Therefore, Mr. Consul, we pray you to take steps to punish the said Hadji Ivancho severely, and that he should explain for whom he and the gendarme Georgi are collecting money, and that the money which he has collected this year and last should be returned to us. At the same time you must give your attention to the ill-treatment which we suffer daily at the hands of the Bulgarians.

Accept, &c.

(Signed) PETKO KOSTOF.

Philippopoli, January $\frac{14}{26}$, 1880.

No. 230.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 19.)

(No. 38. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, February* 5, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith, the copy of a letter addressed by M. Schmidt to Aleko Pasha on the 30th ultimo, in which the former withdraws his resignation of the post of Director of Finance.

M. Schmidt yields to the verbal and written request of the Governor-General on the ground that, from the assurance given to him by his Excellency, the causes which had induced him to resign have no longer any existence.

The Director of Finance has taken care to place on record the views and intentions expressed to him by Aleko Pasha, and which, if carried out, will certainly promote the well-being of this province.

The letter in question specifies, in fact, the conditions on which M. Schmidt has resumed office, and I have no doubt that he will consider any departure from those conditions as a breach of contract between Aleko Pasha and himself.

Your Lordship will no doubt take note of those conditions with much satisfaction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 230.

M. Schmidt to Aleko Pasha.

M. le Gouverneur-Général, *Philippopoli, le* $\frac{18}{30}$ *Janvier*, 1880.

J'AI reçu la lettre que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser le $\frac{17}{29}$ courant et je m'empresse de lui exprimer toute ma reconnaissance pour les termes aimables et flatteurs dans lesquels votre Excellence a bien voulu m'inviter à retirer la démission que j'avais placée entre ses mains par ma lettre du $\frac{22\ \text{Décembre}}{3\ \text{Janvier}}$.

Avant de m'écrire, votre Excellence avait eu la bonté de m'exprimer verbalement qu'elle désirait que je restasse à mon poste de Directeur des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale. J'ai eu l'avantage de constater dans cette entrevue que les causes qui m'avaient amené à donner ma démission n'existaient plus.

C'est donc avec une véritable satisfaction et avec pleine et entière confiance dans la réussite ultérieure des mesures adoptées en conformité des idées que votre Excellence m'a exprimées, que je me trouve aujourd'hui dans la position de pouvoir retirer ma démission, tout en restant conséquent dans la ligne de conduite que j'ai toujours suivie.

Toutefois, en prenant cette décision je crois qu'il convient autant pour votre Excellence que pour moi que je reproduise ici sommairement les points principaux sur lesquels votre Excellence a bien voulu m'exprimer son opinion dans nos dernières entrevues.

J'ai pu comprendre du langage que votre Excellence m'a tenu, qu'elle se trouvait sous l'impression de la nécessité d'une exécution du Statut Organique qui, en constituant cette province en Roumélie Orientale, a assuré à chacune des trois nationalités principales tous les droits indistinctement, et à chacune d'elles des droits politiques en proportion de sa force numérique. En éloignant par une distribution juste et équitable des droits et des priviléges toute cause de plainte de la part des deux minorités ethnographiques, le Gouvernement peut espérer de les amener à une fusion politique qui est tant désirable dans l'intérêt général de la province.

Je partage entièrement les convictions de votre Excellence sur la nécessité de respecter les droits octroyés à ces minorités par le Statut Organique de participer selon leur importance numérique dans les emplois publics.

Je reconnais cependant avec votre Excellence les difficultés pratiques qui s'opposent à l'application immédiate de ce principe sans restriction.

L'absence de la province de la classe instruite de la population Musulmane et le caractère restreint de l'éducation en fait de langues de ceux des Musulmans qui sont déjà rentrés dans leurs foyers et qui seraient actuellement disponibles pour le service de la province sont, sans aucun doute, des obstacles que l'impartialité ne peut qu'admettre.

Cependant l'injustice qui est nécessairement faite de ce chef jusqu'à un certain point devrait être atténuée par la nomination au service du Gouvernement d'un certain nombre

de Turcs dans les districts où la race Musulmane est plus nombreuse et où jusqu'ici les fonctionnaires ont été pris parmi les Bulgares.

De même je ne doute point que votre Excellence n'ait en vue d'accorder à l'élément Grec, dont l'éducation n'est certainement pas inférieure à celle des Bulgares, le nombre d'emplois publics auquels son importance lui donne droit.

L'enrôlement d'un plus grand nombre de Musulmans et de Grecs dans la gendarmerie, pour lequel votre Excellence a donné ses ordres, assurera l'établissement de l'équilibre tracé par l'Article 477 du Statut Organique.

Cette mesure, suivie de la réorganisation et de la mobilisation de la milice, qui est en voie d'être effectuée, aura le résultat si désirable de rétablir les forces militaires et la police de la province sur un pied légal et efficace.

Ces mesures auront encore pour effet de ramener chez les minorités la confiance dans l'impartialité des autorités, dont le gendarme est pour ainsi dire le représentant le plus marquant pour la population rurale.

Le paysan Turc ou Grec se croira plus efficacement protégé par l'autorité s'il remarque parmi les fonctionnaires et les gendarmes un certain nombre de ses coreligionnaires.

La réconstitution immédiate des communes Musulmanes qui ont regagné leurs foyers, l'emploi de la langue Turque dans les relations officielles des autorités avec ces communes, en conformité des stipulations du Statut Organique, contribuera encore pour faire disparaître le manque de confiance et le sentiment de malaise qui prévalent chez une partie de la population.

Je prends la liberté de rappeler ici avec une sincère satisfaction l'intention que votre Excellence a bien voulu me manifester peu avant la clôture de la dernière session de l'Assemblée Provinciale de donner l'ordre à tous les Directeurs afin que tous les projets de loi présentés à l'Assemblée soient rédigés dans les trois langues officielles, conformément à l'esprit de l'Article 22 du Statut Organique.

Une pratique contraire aurait pour tendance la création d'une Assemblée non-Roumélïote, mais Bulgare, et cela en violation flagrante du Traité de Berlin, qui a érigé cette province autonome en Roumélie Orientale.

Mais la responsabilité morale qui m'incombe comme membre d'un Gouvernement chargé sous les auspices et les ordres de votre Excellence de mettre à exécution le Statut Organique, est plus particulièrement grande dans les matières qui concernent spécialement le Département que je suis appelé par votre Excellence à diriger.

Le développement de la prospérité matérielle de la province doit être naturellement le but principal du Directeur des Finances.

L'état satisfaisant des finances dépend entièrement du développement des richesses naturelles de la province sous des conditions politiques et statistiques favorables.

Parmi les conditions politiques, je place en première ligne la tranquillité, l'ordre, la justice, et la sécurité des citoyens; dans la seconde catégorie de conditions je mets le rétablissement de la force numérique de la population.

Aussi, les opinions dont votre Excellence m'a fait part lors d'une de nos dernières entrevues, m'ont convaincu que l'établissement permanent de telles conditions est le but principal de sa sollicitude, et que votre Excellence est déterminée d'écarter tout obstacle qui entraverait leur établissement solide.

Je me permets de me référer ici en particulier aux arrangements concernant le retour des réfugiés Musulmans et leur réinstallation dans les propriétés immeubles qu'ils avaient abandonnées pendant la guerre, ainsi que le recouvrement de leurs créances envers les usufruitiers Chrétiens.

En principe, la restitution de ces propriétés, maisons, boutiques, moulins, tchifliks (fermes), terres, doit être effectuée par voie administrative et non par voie judiciaire; de même les questions se rattachant à l'exploitation de ces biens durant l'absence des propriétaires devront être réglées autant que possible en dehors des Tribunaux.

C'est dans cet ordre d'idées que votre Excellence a expédié dans différentes districts des Commissaires spéciaux qui sont chargés de régler les questions pendantes.

L'autorité civile doit remettre la propriété immeuble à celui qui de notoriété publique la possédait avant la guerre, ou à son fondé de pouvoirs. Ce n'est que dans les cas où les droits des propriétaires Musulmans seraient contestés soit par rapport à l'égalité de leur droit de possession, soit par rapport aux réclamations des usufruitiers, basées sur les debours faits pour réparations fondamentales, que le Tribunal compétent devrait être appelé à se prononcer.

Même en pareil cas, j'ai compris que votre Excellence partage mon avis que la remise de l'immeuble ne pourra être ajournée par une réclamation quelconque. C'est aux réclamants de faire valoir devant les Tribunaux leurs prétentions contre la personne qui se trouvait en possession avant la guerre; le Tribunal départemental pourra, sur la demande

des réclamants, prendre les mesures nécessaires pour empêcher la durée du procès, la vente ou le transfert de l'immeuble en litige; de sorte qu'aucun droit ne pourra être lésé par la remise immédiate de la propriété par voie administrative.

Votre Excellence a souvent manifesté une profonde sympathie pour le sort des pauvres réfugiés Musulmans. La profonde misère qui règne parmi une grande partie de cette population pourra être sensiblement soulagée par une application prompte et équitable du crédit de £ T. 40,000 voté par l'Assemblée Provinciale sur la proposition de votre Excellence pour les nécessiteux de la province. Dans la distribution de cette somme parmi les différentes classes de la population, il faut tenir un juste compte de leur état de misère, et de ce fait que les trois quarts de la somme disponible provient de la vente et des revenus des biens des fugitifs Musulmans inconnus.

En conclusion, la haute sagesse de votre Excellence reconnaît, j'en ai la certitude, la nécessité absolue de rendre le Gouvernement qu'elle dirige, dans son indépendance de toute influence étrangère, fort dans cette solidarité de résolution et dans cette fermeté d'exécution, sans lesquelles les meilleures lois et ordonnances courent le risque de rester lettre-morte.

La solidarité et la force du Gouvernement Central doivent exercer une influence puissante sur tous les organes de l'Administration dans la province pour assurer l'exécution des ordres de votre Excellence et la réalisation de ses vues si favorables pour le bien-être du pays.

Les fonctionnaires doivent être sûrs de trouver l'appui du Gouvernement Central s'ils rencontrent des difficultés dans l'exécution de ses ordres; ils doivent être sûrs d'être démis de leurs fonctions et sévèrement punis, si, obéissants à une influence occulte ou au désir de conserver une popularité facile, ils ne montrent pas de fermeté pour faire respecter les ordres de l'autorité supérieure, et pour faire prévaloir dans toute l'Administration l'esprit que votre Excellence désire y voir régner.

Pour que ce même esprit inspire tous les Départements de votre Gouvernement, il serait peut-être désirable que les questions d'un intérêt général sur lesquelles votre Excellence voudrait prendre un avis ne soient pas référées seulement à un ou plusieurs membres du Directoire, mais bien au Conseil Privé entier. Quelle que soit alors la résolution ultérieure de votre Excellence, chacun des Administrateurs-Généraux, ayant eu l'occasion d'exprimer ses vues et donner son avis, aura sauvegardé sa responsabilité morale et sera mieux à même de s'inspirer de l'esprit qu'aura dicté la résolution de votre Excellence.

Il en résultera l'unité des vues adoptées dans les différents Départements et une grande force d'action pour le Gouvernement Central.

En soumettant ce qui précède très-respectueusement à votre Excellence j'ai la ferme conviction que pour le bien-être de cette province autonome et sa prospérité future, rien ne pourra être plus avantageux que l'exécution des idées que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'exprimer dernièrement.

Guidé par cette conviction, je n'hésite plus à retirer ma demission, et je serai heureux si mes services pourront être utiles a votre Excellence pour la réalisation de ses nobles intentions.

Je prie, &c.
(Signé) A. SCHMIDT.

No. 231.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 19.)

(No. 39.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, February* 6, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith, the translation of a paragraph which has this day appeared in the "Narodni Glas," to the effect that a Bulgarian of Haskeuï has been imprisoned by the order of the Director of Finance, for levying contributions in the district of Hadji Elles.

This information is so far correct; but the "Narodni Glas" has represented quite falsely the character of those contributions.

They have been levied by compulsion, not for a Benevolent Society, but for the benefit of the Secret Committee, which continues its work of conspiracy against the Treaty of Berlin and the Organic Statute, and to paralyze the best intentions of the Governor-General to establish order, security, and a respect for the law in this province.

The official who captured the agent of the Secret Committee and seized on his person a sum of about £ T. 420, which he had already succeeded in levying, found the village in which he was carrying on his operations surrounded by sentries of the Gymnastic Society, which, I regret to state, continues to exist in an active form, notwithstanding its dissolution by the Governor-General on the eve of his Excellency's last visit to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 231.

Extract from the "Narodni Glas" of January 25/February 6, 1880.

(Translation.)

WE learn that an official of the Finance Department visited yesterday, by the orders of M. Director Schmidt, the district of Hadji Elles, and ordered to be imprisoned a certain Bulgarian of Haskeui who was collecting voluntary contributions in that district for the account of a Benevolent Society.

The imprisoned Haskeuiote had previously been arrested at Hadji Elles.

We cannot but wonder at the boldness of M. Schmidt, who has thus begun to mix himself up so familiarly in our social and purely national labours.

No. 232.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 19.)

(No. 40.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, February* 6, 1880.

IN order to prove to your Lordship the great distress that prevails among the Mussulman refugees in this province, and the urgent need that exists for a further exercise of public charity, I have the honour to inclose translations of twenty-six petitions from Turkish villages, praying the Central Refugee Relief Committee in this town to come to their aid with money and clothes.

In one of the petitions (Inclosure No 1), it is stated that more than twenty-two persons had already died of hunger in the village of Eyriler.

The Committee has, however, entirely exhausted its stock of warm clothing, and the funds at its disposal are barely sufficient to keep open for a fortnight longer the three soup kitchens which deliver daily 3,000 rations to 7,000 Mussulman refugees at Philippopoli.

The Committee has therefore been compelled to refer the petitioners to the Local Government; to which their complaints have been officially transmitted by the Vice-President.

Thirty-six Mussulmans came to the Consulate-General yesterday, having marched ten hours from a village in a neighbouring district, where their sufferings had reached the extreme point of starvation, 150 of the remaining villagers having been too feeble from want of food to accompany them.

They were immediately provided with food and lodging by the Central Committee, but the Vice-President having presented them in a body to the Director of the Interior, the latter functionary expressed, as usual, his astonishment that they should have applied to the Committee instead of addressing themselves to the Bailli of the district, who had received instructions for the relief of all necessitous refugees.

Such instructions have no doubt been issued, and even reiterated, but there is, unfortunately, little evidence of their being carried out by the local representatives of the Central Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Eyriler.

(Traduction.)

M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Eyriler, district de Conoushe relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:—

Nous sommes 230 familles composées de 836 personnes, adultes et enfants.

Toutes nos maisons sont en ruines et nous demeurons sous des hangars et dans des huttes. Nos compatriotes Musulmans se trouvent réduits dans une très-grande misère à cause du manque de nourriture et de vêtements; dernièrement nous avons eu plus de vingt-deux personnes mortes de faim, et vous pouvez vous informer de notre état en envoyant quelqu'un pour examiner notre situation. Si avant peu nous ne recevons pas de secours nous mourrons tous.

Nous vous exposons, M. le Président, notre malheureuse situation, confiant que vous viendrez à notre aide. Car autrement deux ou trois jours nous serons tous perdus.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Les représentants Musulmans du village Eyriler,
(Signé) IMAN.
MOUETAR.
RACHID.
MAHMOUD.
HASSAN.
ALI TCHAOUCH.
MAHMOUD HODJA.
NASSOUHOGLOU ALI.

Le 18 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 2 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Kritchma Sagher.

(Traduction.)

M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Kritchma Sagher, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:—

Nous sommes dix familles composées de soixante personnes. Depuis deux mois nous nous trouvons dans notre village. Nos maisons sont un amas de ruines; nous n'avons pas d'abri.

Nous demeurons dans des granges et sous des hangers.

Nous n'avons pas reçu un grain sur les récoltes que nous avons laissées; nous n'avons pas même de rations.

D'un côté par le manque de nourriture, de l'autre par le manque de vêtements, il est bien clair que nous mourrons tous.

Nous vous prions donc, M. le Président, de faire les démarches que vous jugerez à propos, afin de communiquer à la sollicitude de l'autorité locale dont les intentions bienveillantes ne sont pas respectées par nos compatriotes Bulgares.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Le représentant des villageois Musulmans de Kritchma Sagher,
(Signé ARNAOUT OGLOU MAHMOUD.

Le 14 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 3 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Kritchma Kébir.

(Traduction.)

M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Kritchma Kébir, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:—

Nous sommes quarante familles composées de 220 personnes habitant depuis deux mois notre village. De ce chiffre quinze familles ont à recevoir des récoltes qui leur sont dues.

Cependant les autres vingt-cinq familles n'ayant point de récoltes à recevoir, ils vivaient en faisant travailler leurs chevaux. Aujourd'hui, par suite des désordres, ils ont perdus leurs chevaux et n'ont plus le moyen de travailler et gagner leur vie.

Quoique les quinze familles susmentionnées aient à recevoir une certaine quantité de céréales, leurs compatriotes Bulgares refusent de la leur livrer malgré les injonctions de l'autorité locale à laquelle ils refusent d'obéir.

Nous nous trouvons donc tous complétement dépourvus de nourriture: d'un côté le manque de nourriture, d'autre part le manque de vêtements, nous serons tous perdus.

Nous vous prions donc, M. le Président, de vouloir bien nous faire donner nos récoltes aux quinze familles et aux autres vingt-cinq de fournir le moyen de vivre, et ne pas mourir de faim.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Le représentant des villageois de Kritchma Kébir,
(Signé) MOUSTAFA OGLOU ALI.

Le 14 Janvier, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 4 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Dérékeuï.

(Traduction.)
M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Dérékeuï, district de Haskeuï, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 63 familles Musulmanes dans notre village. Nous avons à recevoir 880 kilés de céréales.

Sur ce chiffre on nous a donné seulement 165 kilés. Nous avons réclamé le reste, mais à notre grand regret le Bailli de Hadji, Elias, nous informe que notre droit est soldé par les 165 kilés qu'on nous a donnés, et il ne veut plus rien donner.

Nous vous prions donc instamment, M. le Président, de faire les démarches nécessaires auprès de l'autorité et nous faire donner les récoltes que nous sont dues.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Le représentant des villageois de Dérékeuï,
(Signé) HALIL.

Le 17 Janvier, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 5 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Oustina.

(Traduction.)
M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Oustina, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Sous sommes 85 familles composées de 395 âmes. Nous sommes tous privés de nourriture et de vêtements. Nous avons besoin que l'on vient au secours de notre pitoyable état.

Nous vous prions, M. le Président, de vouloir bien venir à notre aide et ne pas nous laisser mourir de faim et de froid.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Le représentant des villageois Musulmans de Oustina,
(Signé) ABDI.

Le 17 Janvier, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 6 in No. 232.

Pétition from the Village of Davoutlar.

(Traduction.)
M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Davoutlar, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 72 familles ayant construit des huttes dans lesquelles nous demeurons. Les récoltes que nous avons laissées dans nos champs l'année dernière ont été enlevées par nos compatriotes Bulgares des villages de Seldjiova, Oustryova, Tchardakli, Doumanli, et Tépéler.

Nos villageois Musulmans ont réclamé la moitié des récoltes qui leur sont dues. Les villageois Bulgares de Oustoryova, Tchardakli, Doumanli, and Tépéler en ont donné une partie. Les habitants Bulgares de Seldjiova ont enlevé tous les produits de nos champs de 100 et tant demmms, et jusqu'à ce jour ils ne nous ont pas même donné un grain de blé.

Quoique nous ayons réclamé à plusieurs reprises nos récoltes, ils nous ont répondu qu'ils ont distribués nos récoltes parmi les réfugiés Musulmans de Seldjiova.

En même temps les villageois Bulgares de Oustroyva ont distribué le reste de nos récoltes aux villageois Bulgares.

Aujourd'hui nous nous trouvons sans moyen d'existence; nous vous prions respectueusement, M. le Président, de vouloir bien faire les démarches que vous jugerez à propos pour ne pas nous laisser souffrir dans cette misère.

En attendant, &c.

Le représentant,
(Signé) HASSAN EUMER.

Le 18 Janvier, 1880 (v.s.)

Inclosure 7 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Douroutlar.

(Traduction.)
M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Douroutlar, district de Davoutlar, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 72 familles composées de 252 personnes, qui avons à peine pu construire quelques baraques pour nous abriter; quelques-uns de nous ont des vêtements, mais plusieurs autres en sont complétement dépourvus. L'hiver étant très-rigoureux, nous mourrons tous de froid. Nous vous prions donc, M. le Président, de vouloir bien nous fournir quelques vêtements afin de pouvoir faire habiller nos plus malheureux.

En attendant une réponse favorable, veuillez, &c.

Les représentants des villageois Musulmans de Douroutlar,
(Signé) HASSAN.
Le 18 Janvier, 1880 (v.s.). MEHMED.

Inclosure 8 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Dohadja.

(Traduction.)
M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Dohadja, district de Gueubsu, relevant, du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 51 familles composées de 211 personnes, adultes et enfants. Nous sommes privés de bestiaux et de grains pour pouvoir cultiver et ensemencer nos champs. Nous vous prions, M. le Président, de vouloir bien nous faire donner les bestiaux et grains nécessaires pour pouvoir cultiver et ensemencer nos champs.

Jusqu'à ce jour nous avons vécu en vendant une partie de nos champs, mais aujourd'hui en pensant à l'avenir nous craignons de vendre le reste de nos champs, pour

ne pas mourir de faim. Nous vous prions, M. le Président, de voir notre triste position et nous fournir le strict nécessaire pour pouvoir cultiver et ensemencer nos champs.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Les représentants,
(Signé) HASSAN OGLOU ISMAÏL.
HALIM.

Le 20 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 9 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Ouzoun-Kara.

(Traduction.)
M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village d'Ouzoun-Kara, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 15 familles Musulmanes composées de 50 personnes, et 21 Bohémiennes composées de 65 personnes, demeurant dans le même village ; sur les récoltes qui nous sont dues depuis l'année passée il en a été donné à quelques-uns de nous. Les autres n'ont rien reçu, sous prétexte qu'avant l'arrivée de la prochaine moisson ces récoltes ne peuvent leur être données.

Jusqu'à ce jour les Musulmans ont vécu en vendant leurs champs, cependant les 21 Bohémiennes n'ont rien à vendre et se trouvent dans les rues mourant de faim et de froid.

Aujourd'hui toutes les 35 familles se trouvent sans moyen d'existence : si nous ne recevons pas de secours nous mourrons de misère.

Veuillez, M. le Président, nous faire donner des récoltes et quelques vêtements pour ne pas mourir de faim et de froid.

Le représentant des villageois Musulmans d'Ouzoun-Kara,
(Signé) ADEM AGHA.

Le 19 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 10 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Doumanli.

(Traduction.)
M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Doumanli, district de Coyoun-Tépé relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 26 familles composées de 77 personnes ; quoique nous demeurions dans notre village, nous sommes sans nourriture et sans vêtements et réduits dans la plus profonde misère.

Nous croyons, M. le Président, connaissant votre humanité envers nos compatriotes Musulmans que vous jugerez à propos de nous faire donner de la nourriture et des vêtements, comme vous avez fait donner à d'autres malheureux villageois.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Le représentant des villageois Musulmans de Doumanli,
(Signé) TAHIR.

Le 17 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 11 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Deré-Kariyessi.

(Traduction.)
M le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Déré-Kariyessi, district de Cononche, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 78 familles, composées de 211 personnes, demeurant dans des hangars.

Nous n'avons ni bestiaux ni chevaux.

Nous avons nos champs sans pouvoir les cultiver, faute d'instruments aratoires.

Plusieurs fois en allant dans les forêts pour couper du bois, nos compatriotes Bulgares prennent par force de nos mains nos haches en nous disant que les forêts appartiennent à l'autorité, et que nous n'avons pas le droit de couper du bois.

Comme le froid est très-rigoureux, nous vous prions, M. le Président, de vouloir bien nous fournir des vêtements pour pouvoir faire habiller nos malheureux enfants, qui n'ont absolument rien.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Les représentants des villageois Musulmans de Déré-Kariyessi,
(Signé) HASSAN OGLOU AHMED.
ALI OGLOU AHMED.

Le 17 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 12 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Gueukdjeli.

(Traduction.)
M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Gueukdjeli, district de Karadja-Dagh, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 34 familles, composées de 146 personnes. Les 20 familles sont arrivées l'année dernière, et elles ont reçu leurs récoltes. Elles ont ainsi pu subsister jusqu'à ce jour. Toutefois les 14 autres familles qui sont arrivées dernièrement n'ont absolument rien reçu sur les récoltes qui leur sont dues. Malgré nos réclamations itératives il nous est répondu que rien ne peut nous être donné pour le moment.

Aujourd'hui les villageois Musulmans se trouvent dans une misère pitoyable.

Nous avons sollicité à plusieurs reprises le Bailli d'Ibrachtar de nous faire donner nos récoltes ; mais aucune suite n'a été donnée à nos réclamations. D'un coté par le manque de nourriture, de l'autre par le manque de vêtements, il est bien clair que nous mourrons tous.

Nous vous prions tous, donc, instamment, M. le Président, de faire les démarches que vous jugerez à propos pour nous faire donner nos récoltes et ne pas nous laisser mourir de faim et de froid.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Le représentant des villageois Musulmans de Gueukdjeli,
(Signé) MOUSTAFA.

Le 16 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 13 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Karanoussoul.

(Traduction.)
M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village de Karanoussoul, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 90 personnes, demeurant sous des hangars sans nourriture et sans vêtements.

Les rigueurs de l'hiver nous feront tous périr.

Nous vous prions donc, M. le Président, de vouloir bien nous fournir tout ce qui est nécessaire pour pouvoir nous couvrir.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Les représentants du village de Karanoussoul,
(Signé) HADJI OGLOU RACHID.
AHMED OGLOU MEHMED.
MOUSTAFA OGLOU YACOUB.
NUMUN OGLOU AHMED.

Le 10 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 14 in No. 232.

Petition from the Villages of Loftcha and Selvi.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans des villages de Loftcha et Selvi, en Bulgarie, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 38 familles, composées de 145 personnes.

Nous étions à Andrinople; le Gouverneur-Général du dit vilayet nous a payé nos frais de voyage, et nous a donné l'ordre de nous rendre à nos villages.

Arrivés à Gabrova, la population Bulgare de Gabrova nous a arrêtés et elle ne nous a pas laissé continuer notre voyage. De là nous étions obligés de venir à Kezanlik où nous nous trouvons depuis un mois sous des tentes et dans des mosques en ruines.

Plusieurs de nos villageois sont morts de faim.

Le reste aussi mourront si notre état n'est pas amélioré.

Il y a déjà sept jours que nous nous trouvons à Philippopoli, et avons présentés trois pétitions à l'autorité; mais, à notre grand regret, aucune suite n'a été donnée à ces suppliques.

Nous nous trouvons dans les hans sans avoir le sou dans notre poche.

Nous vous prions donc de vouloir bien faire donner des rations à nos malheureux villageois, et nous faire renvoyer dans nos villages en nous donnant un employé de l'autorité pour nous accompagner.

Nous vous supplions donc, M. le Consul-Général, de venir à notre aide et nous donner votre protection dans cette critique situation.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Le représentant des villageois de Loftcha,
(Signé) MEHMED.
Le représentant de Selvi,
(Signé) HASSAN.

Le 23 *Décembre*, 1879 (v.s.).

Inclosure 15 in No. 232.

Petition from Turkish Refugees of Sophia.

(Traduction.)

M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants réfugiés Musulmans de Sophia.

Nous sommes 3 familles composées de 15 personnes. Jusqu'à ce jour nous avons dû patienter malgré nous; mais il était temps que nous nous réfugions et de venir ici difficulter.

Il nous a été impossible de continuer notre voyage jusqu'à Andrinople.

Veuillez, M. le Président, nous faire renvoyer jusqu'à Andrinople ou bien de nous faire donner des rations pour pouvoir vivre ici.

En attendant, veuillez, &c.

Les représentants,
(Signé) MOUSTAFA OGLOU IBRAHIM.
NAZIK BIN BEKIR.
HAMID BIN HASSAN.

Le 18 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 16 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Dérékeui.

(Traduction.)

M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Dérékeui, district de Haskeui, relevant du département de Philippopoli, nous avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 80 familles composées de 282 personnes. Nous demeurons sous des hangars, réduits à une misère pitoyable et mourant de faim et de froid.

Nous n'avons même pas de bestiaux. Si on nous donnait le strict nécessaire en fait de bestiaux et de semences nous vivrions sans venir demander de secours.

En attendant une réponse satisfaisante, veuillez, &c.

Le représentant des villageois Musulmans de Dérékeui,
(Signé) YOUSSOUF OGLOU HALLIL.

Le 16 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 17 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Izzetdin-Kébir.

(Traduction.)

M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants du village d'Izzetdin-Kébir, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 53 familles composées de 152 personnes; quoique nous nous trouvons dans notre village nous sommes dans une situation pitoyable. D'un côté par le manque de nourriture, de l'autre par manque de vêtements, il est bien clair que nous mourrons tous.

Sur nos récoltes de l'année passée il nous est dû 171 kilés de blés tendre, mais ce blé a été distribué à nos compatriotes Bulgares. Nous nous trouvons donc complétement dépourvus de nourriture et de vêtements. Nous vous prions, M. le Président, de vouloir bien nous faire donner nos blés et aviser à ce que les ordres donnés aux autorités soient respectés par nos compatriotes Bulgares.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Le représentant des villageois Musulmans de Izzetdin-Kébir,
(Signé) IBRAHIM OGLOU HASSAN.

Le 16 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 18 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Sate-Oglou.

(Traduction.)

M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Sate-Oglou, district de Caradja-Dagh, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter a votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 16 familles composées de 68 personnes, demeurant dans des hangars. Nous sommes arrivés à un moment où nous serons tous perdus de faim et de froid.

Pour demander du secours nous avons adressé deux pétitions à l'autorité qui nous a répondu qu'on a donné des ordres au Bailli d'Abrachlar; mais ce dernier nous a fait savoir que comme nous ne possédons pas des champs il ne peut nous donner des récoltes.

De grâce, que deviendra-t-il de nous!

Veuillez, M. le Président, venir à notre aide et nous faire donner du pain et des vêtements, pour ne pas nous laisser mourir de faim et de froid.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Les représentants des villageois de Sate-Oglou,
(Signé) BEKIR OGLOU ISKENDER.
MEHMED OGLOU HASSAN.

Le 18 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 19 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Caru-Moustafalar.

(Traduction.)

M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Caru-Moustafalar, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 28 familles composées de 70 personnes. N'ayant pas d'habitations nous demeurons sous des hangars, réduits à la dernière extrémité.

Les blés qu'on nous a donnés, nous les avons ensemencés dans nos champs, et nous restons les bras croisés.

Nos malheureux villageois n'ont point de vêtements; nous vous prions donc, M. le Président, de vouloir bien faire construire nos maisons et ne pas nous laisser mourir sur les montagnes, et en même temps fournir quelques vêtements à ceux de nos plus misérables villageois,

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Les représentants des villageois de Cara-Moustafalar,
(Signé) SALIH OGLOU HUSSEÏN.
AHMED OGLOU ISMAÏL.

Le 17 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 20 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Ayranlo.

(Traduction.)

M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Ayranlo, district de Gueubsu, relevant du Bailli de Corou-keuï, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:—

Nous sommes plus de 155 familles, dont 120 familles sont arrivées l'année dernière, les 35 familles étant arrivées depuis peu. De ces dernières quelques-unes ont reçu la part leur revenant sur leurs récoltes. Les autres ont reçu seulement une partie des leurs.

Il leur a été promis qu'elles recevront sur les récoltes de l'année prochaine; cependant nos villageois Musulmans n'ont plus le moyen de pouvoir patienter et mourrons tous de faim et de froid.

Nous vous prions, M. le Président, de vouloir bien nous faire fournir nos récoltes et ne pas nous laisser mourir de faim et de froid.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Le représentant des villageois Musulmans d'Ayranlo,
(Signé) RUMAN OGLOU SULEYMAN.

Le 17 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 21 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Dérékariyessi (Conouche).

(Traduction.)

M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Dérékarinessi, district de Conouche, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit;—

Les produits de nos champs, que nous avons laissés lors de la dernière guerre, ont été enlevés par l'autorité locale. Nous avions les récoltes suivantes:—

Du village de Tatarlar, 203 kilés; Cos-Bounar, 108 kilés; Derbent Yeni-Mahalé, 598 kilés: total 904 kilés, de céréales qu'on ne nous a pas livré; malgré nos demandes itératives nous avons rencontré mille difficultés de la part de l'autorité.

Nous vous prions respectueusement, M. le Président, de vouloir bien faire les démarches que vous jugerez à propos et nous faire donner les récoltes qui nous sont dues.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Les représentants des villageois Musulmans de Dérékeui Conouche,
(Signé) AHMED OGLOU HASSAN.
AALI OGLOU AHMED.

Le 18 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 22 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Douratli.

(Traduction.)

M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Douratli, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:—

Nous sommes 160 familles, dont 60 sont arrivées l'année passée et reçu leur part des récoltes qui leur ont permis de vivre jusqu'ici; mais aujourd'hui elles n'ont plus rien.

Les 100 autres familles sont rentrées cette année. Elle ont réclamé des villageois Bulgares ce qui leur est dû sur les récoltes: 2,016 kilés de céréales appartiennent à ces 100 familles Musulmanes. L'autorité a donné l'ordre de leur en faire la distribution, cépendant les Bulgares ont distribués ces récoltes parmi les villageois Bulgares sans rien nous donner. Nous réclamons notre droit, mais personne ne donne suite à notre demande. Aujourd'hui nous nous trouvons complétement dépourvus de nourriture et de vêtements.

Il est clair que de la sorte nous serons tous perdus. Nous prions donc instamment M. le Président de faire les démarches que vous jugerez à propos et faire donner à ces 100 familles leurs récoltes. Dans le cas contraire nous mourrons de faim et de froid.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Le représentant des villageois de Douratli,
(Signé) TAYIRLI HASSAN

Le 11 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 23 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Ayden-Keuï.

(Traduction.)

M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village d'Ayden-keuï, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:—

Nous sommes 84 familles composées de 314 personnes; quoique nous demeurons tous dans notre village nous sommes dans une situation pitoyable.

Dernièrement quelques personnes sont mortes à cause du manque de nourriture et de vêtements.

Notre position est bien déplorable.

Nous avons eu un incendie et avons perdus six maisons: les habitants de ces maisons incendiées se trouvent sur les montagnes.

Nos mosquées aussi sont en ruines et nous n'avons pas d'endroit pour faire nos prières.

Nous vous prions donc, M. le Président, de vouloir bien nous fournir le moyen pour vivre et de vêtements pour nous habiller, en même temps que de faire les démarches que vous jugerez convenables et faire construire nos mosquées et nos maisons.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Les représentants des villageois Musulmans de Ayden,
(Signé) MOUKTAR HUSSEIN.
IMAM ISMAÏL HODJA.

Le 17 *Janvier*, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 24 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Ada-Keuï.

(Traduction.)

M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans d'Ada-keui, district de Coyoun-Tépé, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit:—

Nous sommes 10 familles composées de 30 personnes, nous trouvant dans une profonde misère, et nous vous prions de vouloir bien nous faire donner des vêtements.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Les représentants du village de Ada-keui,
(Signé) Les Mouktars.

Le 16 Janvier, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 25 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Foyna.

(Traduction.)

M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Foyna, district de Roubdjous (Rhodope), relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Lors de la dernière guerre 12 familles de notre village ont émigré et les 14 familles sont restées.

Les 12 familles sont retournées dernièrement au village et leurs compatriotes Bulgares leur ont donné une partie des récoltes qui leur reviennent, au moyen desquelles elles ont vécu jusqu'à ce jour. Mais aujourd'hui nous n'avons plus de céréales pour pouvoir vivre et nous mourrons tous de faim, comme du froid, vu que nous manquons complétement de vêtements.

Nous vous prions, M. le Président, de vouloir bien faire donner à 150 personnes des céréales pour pouvoir vivre et ne pas mourrir de faim, et en même temps de leur fournir les vêtements nécessaires.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez, &c.

Le représentant des villageois de Foyna,
(Signé) MOUSTAFA OGLOU MEHMED.

Le 17 Janvier, 1880 (v.s.).

Inclosure 26 in No. 232.

Petition from the Village of Eyriler (Conouche).

(Traduction.)

M. le Président,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village d'Eyriler, district de Conouche, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance ce qui suit :—

Nous sommes 19 familles rentrées à notre village; les familles qui sont arrivées dernièrement ont reçu leur part des récoltes, mais nous autres nous n'avons rien reçu sur les 176½ kilés de céréales dues par le village de Pranka; cependant, par ordre de la police de Philippopoli, les villageois de Pranka ont distribués nos récoltes parmi les villageois Bulgares de Schrokarika. Nous avons apris cela des Notables du village de Pranka.

Depuis cinq mois, vu notre misère, nous avons dû mettre nos champs en hypothèque et procurer de quoi vivre et acheter des vêtements pour nos enfants.

Aujourd'hui nous nous trouvons sans moyen d'existence, mourant de faim et de froid.

Nous vous prions, M. le Président, de vouloir bien faire les démarches nécessaires pour nous faire donner les récoltes qui nous sont dues et ne pas nous laisser mourir de faim et de froid.

En attendant vos ordres, veuillez agréer, &c.

Les représentants des villageois Musulmans d'Eyriler,
(Signé) HAYROULAH OGLOU MEHMED.
HATIB EFFENDI.
ARIF OGLOU NASSOUH.

Le 18 Janvier, 1880, (v.s.).

No. 233.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February 19.*)

(No. 41. Confidential.)

Philippopoli, February 6, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches No. 37, Confidential, of the 1st instant, and No. 39 of this date, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a translation of the Report that has been made to M. Schmidt by the agent whom he sent to the district of Hadji Elles for the purpose of inquiring into the alleged compulsory levying of money contributions by the Secret or National Committee.

The facts alleged in the petition presented to me on the 27th ultimo having been fully proved, M. Schmidt induced the Governor-General to dispatch to Haskeui, the Procurator-General, who is consequently at present engaged in examining the prisoner and the witnesses who have borne testimony to his arbitrary acts.

The Report in question throws an interesting light on the proceedings of the Secret Committees in this province.

There is considerable consternation among the Bulgarians on account of the imprisonment of Russeff, who is closely related to one of the Judges of the Court of Appeal at Philippopoli, who is at the same time one of the Deputies at the Provincial Assembly.

The capture of Russeff in the act of levying contributions on the Bulgarian peasantry has made a considerable impression on Aleko Pasha, who had been assured only a few days previously by the Vice-President of the Provincial Assembly (who is also one of the most radical members of the Permanent Committee), that the Gymnastic Societies, of which the Secret or National Committee is the central representative, had already ceased to exist.

Every effort will now be made to establish that the contributions were "voluntary," and for a "benevolent object."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 233.

Report by M. Vlachides.

(Traduction.)

J'AI l'honneur de vous soumettre mon Rapport sur ma mission dans les villages de Cara-Allan et Kouzlouk, où je me suis rendu d'après vos ordres. Conformément à vos instructions du $\frac{19}{31}$ de ce mois, le lendemain, accompagné du sous-officier de gendarmerie Tovantcho, je me suis rendu par le chemin de fer à Hadji-Elles et de là à Cara-Allan où je sous arrivé vers les 2 heures et demie de l'après-midi.

Arrivé à ce village je demandai à un paysan de me conduire chez le Mouhtar. Chemin faisant j'ai rencontré un individu habillé en bourgeois et portant un galon vert sur la couture de son pantalon. La présence de cet homme dans un pareil endroit avait naturellement soulevé en moi des soupçons et je demandai au paysan qui m'accompagnait des renseignements sur son compte.

J'appris que cet individu était chargé de prélever £ T. 300 sur le village pour un but inconnu. J'ordonnai donc au gendarme qui l'invita à nous suivre. M'étant trouvé devant la maison d'un des Anciens du village, j'y pénétrai et trouvai réunies quelques personnes, parmi lesquelles deux ou trois prêtres.

M'adressant à cette assemblée, je priai que tous les Anciens du villages soient mandés. Ceux-ci arrivèrent. Je demandai donc aux prêtres et autres étrangers présents de vouloir bien quitter la chambre. J'annonçai aux restants que j'étais Inspecteur des Finances, envoyé pour examiner si des impôts étaient illégalement perçus et dans ce cas pour quelle raison ils étaient perçus et par quels moyens. Je les invitai à me dire toute la vérité. L'un des Anciens prenant la parole m'informa qu'en effet, depuis quelques jours, le nommé Russef, le même que je venais de faire arrêter, se trouvait au village, dont il exigeait £ T. 300; que cette perception avait commencé la veille et que jusqu'à ce moment-là il avait été déjà ramassé £ T. 70 qui se trouvaient entre les mains des Notables. Sur ma demande d'être édifié au sujet de la manière de perception de ces contributions et de savoir si les paysans y souscrivaient volontiers, ou bien s'ils étaient contraints de le faire, il me fut

répondu que l'impôt était réparti en proportion de leurs moyens, et que les paysans s'y prêtaient volontiers.

J'exigeai que ces renseignements me fussent donnés par écrit. Les Anciens se retirèrent momentanément de la chambre pour délibérer sur ma proposition. Entre temps, nombre de paysans arrivèrent pour loger des plaintes contre les Anciens et Russef, qui les opprimaient et prélevaient sur eux des contributions forcées, et qu'à cette fin leur village était entouré de sentinelles; ce que du reste je remarquai en entrant dans le village.

Alors je fis venir Nicolas Russef, déjà cité, et le nommé Nicolas Petkoff, qui m'avait informé auparavant être au service de Russef. En réponse à ma demande de connaître le motif de sa présence dans ce village, Russef m'avoua avoir été envoyé de Haskeuï à l'effet de prélever de l'argent "pour compte du Comité."

Je lui déclarai alors que j'avais ordre de le faire arrêter et de l'envoyer à Hadji-Elles, en même temps que de confisquer les documents en sa possession que je l'invitai à me délivrer.

Ces documents furent aussitôt placés, en présence du gendarme et des Anciens, dans un sac qui fut cacheté de mon sceau et de celui du village de Cara-Allan. Après quoi j'intimai aux dits Russef et Petkoff d'être prêts pour se rendre à Hadji-Elles. Russef me dit qu'il était à mes ordres, mais qu'il avait en main une somme au sujet de laquelle il désirait avoir mes instructions.

Je lui répondis que cet argent aussi serait cacheté et je l'invitai à me le donner, ce qu'il fit en présence des Anciens de Cara-Allan, ainsi que de ceux du village de Caradjilar, qui arrivaient pour prendre un récépissé pour 17,845½ piastres qu'ils avaient versées à Russef.

L'argent délivré par Russef était renfermé dans trois sacs que nous mîmes ensemble dans un seul sac, qui fut cacheté de mon sceau et de ceux des villages de Cara-Allan et de Kouzlouk.

Russef m'informa que de cette somme 17,845½ piastres avaient été prélevées sur le village de Caradjilar, 13,000 piastres or sur Ketanli, et 7,920 piastres or sur Novakovo.

Je délivrai le sac contenant cet argent contre reçu aux Anciens de Cara-Allan. Ensuite j'envoyai à Hadji-Elles, Russef, en compagnie d'un paysan et d'un gendarme du nom de Velo Mihaloff, de Caradjilar, et qui se trouvait à Cara-Allan, je ne sais pourquoi.

Le nommé Nicolas Petkoff ne fut pas envoyé avec Russef, les Anciens de Cara-Allan et de Kouzlouk m'ayant déclaré qu'ils répondaient de sa personne en même temps qu'ils m'affirmèrent qu'il n'était nullement complice.

Je dois ajouter ici que je trouvai dans la pièce où s'est passé ce qui est relaté ci-dessus un sabre de gendarme, la propriété de Russef. J'en pris possession et le délivrai plus tard avec les documents dont s'agit à M. le Procureur-Général.

Les Anciens du village de Caradjilar s'adressant à moi me demandèrent la restitution des 17,845½ piastres qu'ils avaient versées à Russef. Pourquoi réclamez-vous, leur dis-je de l'argent déjà donné?

Ils me répondirent qu'ils n'avaient pas eu d'alternative, ayant été contraints de s'y soumettre. J'exigeai cette déclaration par écrit. Comme ils ne savaient pas écrire je fis la rédaction de leur déposition, et leur ayant donné lecture ils y apposèrent leurs signatures.

Pendant cette intervalle des paysans s'assemblèrent dans la cour de la maison et commencèrent à vociférer contre les Notables de Cara-Allan, se plaignant, entre autres choses, de ce que contre leur gré ils les forçaient de payer cet argent.

Notamment un d'entre eux, Papasoglou, les accusait à hauts cris de l'avoir battu sans miséricorde pour avoir refusé de payer.

Etant descendu pour voir ce que s'y passait, les paysans m'entourèrent en m'exposant leurs plaintes.

Je les priai de me donner ces plaintes par écrit, ce qu'ils me promirent pour le lendemain. En même temps je demandai aux Mouhtars un Rapport sur cette affaire, Rapport qu'ils me préparèrent sans toutefois consentir à y apposer le sceau du village, malgré mes instances.

Le soir j'appris par l'un des Anciens que la répartition de cette imposition fut faite de la manière suivante:

Chaque paysan propriétaire de bétail payerait 12½ piastres or par animal; sur chaque kilé de céréales 6 piastres, et par tête de mouton 1 piastre.

J'appris de la même personne que Nicolas Petkoff est au service de Georgi Hadji Iovanicho, de Haskeuï. Le lendemain j'ordonnai aux Anciens d'envoyer ce Petkoff au Bailli de Hadji-Elles, mais ils ne le firent pas.

Ma mission étant terminée dans cette localité, je partis pour Kouzlouk. Chemin faisant, un paysan de Cara-Allan jeta dans ma voiture une pétition signée de quatre-vingt-onze de ses villageois, qui portaient plainte contre la violente et arbitraire perception ci-dessus mentionnée.

A Kouzlouk j'appris du premier paysan que je rencontrai que mon arrivée leur était déjà connu et qu'un logement avait été préparé pour me recevoir. Je lui demandai comment il savait que je me rendrais à son village; il me répondit qu'il ne savait rien. Ensuite je fis appeler tous les Anciens à qui j'annonçai ma mission et leur ordonnai de me dire si on leur avait demandé de l'argent et dans ce cas pour quel objet? Ils me répondirent qu'un certain Michail Pascaloff, de Haskeuï, et le susnommé Russef, ainsi que le fils Georgi Sandikiar, exigèrent de leur village £T.180 que les Anciens ramassèrent et expédièrent à Haskeuï par les Mouhtars et un autre paysan, contre reçu. Je leur demandai si ces contributions étaient volontaires ou si elles avaient été prises par force? Ils me répondirent d'une seule voix: "Donne-t-on jamais volontiers de l'argent?" Quelques paysans se trouvant présents ajoutèrent qu'à part d'autres mauvais traitements qu'ils subissaient, ils ont été battus et forcés de vendre leur bétail pour payer leur part.

Je demandai des Anciens un rapport sur cette affaire. Ils y consentirent. Cependant un d'entre eux, nommé Tentcho Petroff, déclara qu'ils ne pouvaient signer un document contenant des inexactitudes, vu que, ajouta-t-il, les plaignants mentent. Je lui fis observer que je n'exigeai qu'un rapport sur l'affaire telle qu'ils la connaissait, sur quoi il répondit qu'ils n'osaient me délivrer aucun Rapport dans la crainte que je ne fusse espion, car ils avaient ordre d'être sur leur garde.

Les ayant persuadés que je n'étais nullement espion, il se rendirent à l'école pour préparer le Rapport. Ayant attendu une demi-heure, j'allai à leur recherche, et les rencontrai dans la rue assaillis par une foule d'hommes et de femmes en colère. M'étant approché au théâtre de cette scène toute la foule accourut vers moi, se plaignant amèrement contre les terribles oppressions dont elle était l'objet de la part des Anciens; tout leur avait été enlevé, leurs bœufs comme leurs céréales; leur vie était devenue insupportable.

Enfin elle me pria de les délivrer de leurs misères et de leur désigner un autre endroit pour y aller vivre en tranquillité. Entre autres, une femme mettant de désespoir son voile en pièces, s'écria: "Du temps des Turcs nous n'avons jamais souffert ce que nous avons à supporter aujourd'hui."

En même temps il me fut remis quatre pétitions, et j'inscrivis les noms des plaignants dont je vous transmets ci-jointe une liste.

Avant de quitter ce village je reçus par l'entremise d'un paysan le Rapport qui m'avait été promis par les Anciens, mais ayant remarqué qu'il ne portait ni sceau ni signature, je le rendis, et je m'en allais à Hadji-Elles.

A mon arrivée à ce dernier village on me remit une lettre du Bailli me demandant par écrit la raison de l'arrestation de Nicolas Russef. Je me rendis auprès du Bailli et je lui montrai votre ordre. Néanmoins il ne fut pas satisfait et insista pour que je lui donnasse l'écrit qu'il exigeait de moi, avec menace que dans le cas contraire le prisonnier serait mis en liberté. Je crus en conséquence devoir lui délivrer pareille pièce.

Le lendemain Przewlodzki, Procureur-Général, arriva à Hadji-Elles et me donna votre nouvelle ordre en date du 22-23 Février, en vertu duquel j'accompagnai M. le Procureur-Général à Haskeuï, où je lui donnai tous les renseignements.

Sur sa demande je voulus délivrer à M. J. Ghirdgikoff les documents en ma possession. Mais ce dernier refusa d'en prendre livraison, disant qu'un des accusés lui était parent.

Dès lors M. Przewlodzki me désigna une autre personne à qui je remis tous les documents. Celui-ci rédigea un Rapport qu'il me pria de signer. Mais moi je refusai, n'ayant ordre d'adresser des Rapports qu'à vous seul.

M. Przewlodzki m'informa que ma mission était terminée et que j'étais libre de partir. Le lendemain je quittai Haskeuï et j'arrivai hier soir ici pour vous rendre compte de cette mission.

Voila, M. le Directeur, en détail, les faits les plus saillants de ma mission, J'ai omis quelques points de peu d'importance pour ne pas abuser de vos moments précieux.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) VLACHIDES.

Ce $\frac{23\ \text{Janvier}}{6\ \text{Février}}$ 1880.

No. 234.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 163.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 5, 1880.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 35 of the 15th ultimo, and to my despatch to your Lordship No. 113 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to state that, having received from Mr. Consul-General Michell a copy of his despatch relating to the law "for the prosecution of crimes committed before and during the war" adopted by the Provincial Assembly of Eastern Roumelia, I at once called the attention of the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to the provisions of its 4th Article, and expressed my hope that the Sultan might decide upon refusing his sanction to it. Sawas Pasha observed that this was the first time that he had heard of the law in question, at which he expressed great indignation. He added that a translation of the law, with explanations as to its effect upon the Mussulman proprietors of Eastern Roumelia, should at once be sent to the Palace, and he had no doubt that His Majesty would refuse to sanction so iniquitous an act of legislation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 235.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 167.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 7, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of a petition from twenty-four persons at Salonica, who state that they own landed property in Servia, and complain of the manner in which, they allege, the Servian Government are about to dispose of it. I have informed the petitioners that I would submit their complaints to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 235.

Petition.

(Translation.)

IN the Berlin Treaty our rights of possession over property and farms in the territory belonging to Servia were assured in the strongest possible manner.

In despair and hopelessness we asked your Excellency, on a former occasion, to cause the necessary steps to be carried out.

According to authentic information we have now received, we hear that the Servian Government has decided that the lands we have deserted are to be assessed and the value to be paid by the farmers in three payments.

This arrangement is not only unjust, but one which will deprive us of all rights of holding property. Moreover, it is one which cannot be tolerated by any impartial Government, and we are in need of the assistance of your Excellency's Government to do away with this injustice, which will be our only inheritance of property of whose productions and revenues we have been entirely deprived since our emigration.

Therefore, in order to come to some fair and speedy arrangement, and in order that our property and farms and all our rights should remain intact, and that immediate steps should be taken, we ask that your Excellency should pray the British Government to appoint a Special Commissioner to form a Mixed Commission, and that thus, after a fixed period of time, our rights should be assured, and a just and fair solution of the affair may be arrived at.

(Signed by 24 persons of Salonica.)

January 29,
February 11, 1880.

No. 236.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 168.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 7, 1880.*

M. CHRISTICH, the Servian Minister, called upon me, as "Doyen" of the Diplomatic body, to complain that he had not been invited, with the rest of his colleagues, by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to send a Dragoman to the meeting of the Dragomans named by the other Missions to inquire into and report upon the new licence law. (See Mr. Malet's despatch No. 75, Commercial, of the 1st October last.) He requested me to represent the matter to Sawas Pasha, and to use my influence to induce his Excellency to include the Servian Legation in his invitation.

I have accordingly communicated with Sawas Pasha upon the subject, but his Excellency expressed his regret that he was unable to comply with M. Christich's request that his Dragoman should be invited to attend the meeting, as it was quite impossible for him to do so without thereby admitting that Servian subjects were entitled to the benefit of the capitulations, which it was expressly declared by the XLth Article of the Treaty of Berlin that they were not. I have also consulted one of the foreign Legal Advisers of the Porte on the subject, who expressed himself as entirely of Sawas Pasha's opinion. I have no doubt that his Excellency is right, and I have so informed my Servian colleague.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 237.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 169.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 7, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch, which I have received from the British Vice-Consul at Rhodes, respecting the failure of crops in that island, and the suicidal measures of the Porte in preventing the distribution of seed-grain among the peasants.

I have communicated a copy of this despatch to the Sublime Porte, who have now sent orders to the local authorities to proceed with the distribution. I inclose copy of a further despatch from Mr. Calvert to this effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 237.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Rhodes, January 26, 1880.*

I REGRET to have to report that the prospects of this island for the present year are most gloomy. The Porte has the means of averting the calamity with which the inhabitants are threatened by simply allowing to be carried out as usual a measure which is sanctioned by local custom and which involves hardly even a nominal sacrifice; but it seems disposed, on the contrary, to aggravate the critical situation.

There are numberless evidences of the fact that Rhodes has for many years past been undergoing a gradual process of impoverishment. The principal cause of this is that all the staple products of the island are suffering more or less from different maladies. Through the silk-worm disease the production of silk, once a considerable and universal source of profit, has become entirely extinct. The oïdium which began to attack the vines fifteen or sixteen years ago, although it is now apparently beginning to pass away, still materially affects the wine industry. Oranges and lemons, once exported in large quantities, have also been affected by a malady which made its appearance about the same time, insomuch that the produce now barely suffices for

local consumption. Figs also suffer from a malady of another kind which dates from the same period. The olive-trees, which used to give a prolific yield once in three years, although they have no outward indications of unhealthiness, now afford a good crop only once in five or six years.

The produce of grain has, from a variety of causes, been at the same time steadily diminishing, and instead of yielding a surplus for exportation, as formerly, now falls short of local requirements, even in good years. But last year's crop, here as in other parts of the Levant, failed almost totally. This blow has greatly accelerated the general movement downwards above referred to, and now threatens a very serious crisis.

There is a depôt of grain, for military purposes, in the fortress of Rhodes, amounting to 21,000 bushels ("kilés"). It has been customary for the Government authorities to renew the grain in deposit by lending out to the different villages a total of one-third of the above quantity every year as seed, receiving back an equal quantity after harvest. The peasants were naturally unable last year to return more than a fraction of what had been distributed to them. Mr. Consul Biliotti, of Trebizond, who has been passing some weeks here, and has had occasion to visit different parts of the island, took an opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Mutessarif from personal observation the distress of the peasantry, and the consequently urgent necessity of issuing even a larger quantity of grain than usual, for the purpose of subsistence as well as for sowing; for, he argued, with the prospect of immediate hunger before them, the poor people were likely to sacrifice the future in order to satisfy present necessities.

His Excellency fully admitted the force of this reasoning, and he told me that he anticipated no difficulty whatever on the part of the Porte as regarded the adoption of measures accordingly. He meanwhile sent zaptiehs round to the different districts to obtain estimates of the requirements of each. Nevertheless, it appears that he has just received peremptory orders from the Porte to issue no grain whatever until the arrears of the war tax ("Imdadié") shall have been paid up. Owing to their daily increasing distress the peasantry are little likely to be able to comply with a requisition which they could not meet when in comparatively good circumstances.

There is reason to believe that local holders of grain, who are likewise members of the Medjliss, have found it their interest to persuade the Government to this course. It is to be hoped that the Porte will see fit to revoke so suicidal an order, and to direct that remedial measures be, on the contrary, facilitated. But there is now little time left, and unless this be done before another three weeks at latest the inhabitants of Rhodes will be confronted with the horrors of a famine, whilst the Government revenues, on the other hand, will incur a dead loss instead of profiting by the bounty of nature through a necessary and costless concession.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 237.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Rhodes, February 4, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the question referred to in my despatch to your Excellency of the 26th ultimo has been satisfactorily disposed of, the Mutessarif of Rhodes having received orders from the Vali at Scio to issue at once to the agricultural population the necessary supplies of grain for sowing. Notice has accordingly been sent round to all parts of the island, the nearer districts have already responded to the invitation, and the work of distribution is being actively proceeded with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 238.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 170. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February 7*, 1880.

I INFORMED your Lordship in my despatch No. 154 of the 3rd instant of the approaching arrival of the Bulgarian Exarch here. His Beatitude called upon me yesterday. He said that he had decided upon taking up his residence in Constantinople, as the place from which he could best direct the affairs of his Church. He had done all that was necessary in this respect in Eastern Roumelia, and had been to Sophia, where he had had satisfactory communications on ecclesiastical matters with the Prince. It was now necessary for him to make proper provision for the spiritual needs of the Bulgarians who inhabited that part of Turkey in Europe which remained under the direct rule of the Sultan, and who were without Bishops and spiritual guides. He had not even the power, his Beatitude complained, to appoint a Bulgarian priest to a parish in Macedonia, and one whom he had recently named was sent back by the authorities. This state of things could not continue, and he could not but believe that the Porte would end by acknowledging his rights as head of the universal Bulgarian Church, and would enable him to exercise them.

His Beatitude observed that he looked with great confidence to the future of Eastern Roumelia, where a great improvement had already taken place. The two principal difficulties with which the province had to contend were an Organic Statute of too complicated and liberal a nature for a population not yet prepared for such institutions, and the want of men to conduct public affairs, and to fill the many posts in the Administration that had been created by the Statute. But both these difficulties would, he believed, be got over in time. The Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia were a very intelligent race; they had already made considerable progress in education, and were fully impressed with the necessity and importance of doing more in that direction. They had also much political insight, and could at once detect the motives of those who aimed at being their leaders, whether they were acting for personal objects or for the public good. He did not express a high opinion of Aleko Pasha, or his principal adviser, M. Christovich; he intimated that they were both wanting in the qualities, and especially in the energy which were necessary for the government of a newly-established autonomous province.

His Beatitude took a very different view of the state of Bulgaria. He said that his recent visit to Sophia had produced a very unfavourable impression upon him as to the future of the Principality. The Prince was a conscientious, loyal, and highly honourable young man, sincerely desirous of promoting the welfare of the country he had been chosen to govern, but he was without experience, and totally unacquainted with the character and wants of its people. He was, consequently, dependent upon the men whom circumstances might compel him to accept as his Ministers and advisers. The Bulgarian population of the Principality was greatly inferior in intelligence and education to that of Eastern Roumelia, and consequently was easily led by demagogues and political agitators. Those who had the chief influence over it, and who would probably soon obtain the entire control of public affairs, were men of extreme views. They were more than Republicans; they were communists; and the doctrines they preached were very acceptable to an ignorant peasantry. He had been very much struck by the difference in the class of men chosen to the National Assemblies in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, whilst the large majority of members who had been elected in the latter province were men of intelligence and education: the Bulgarian Assembly consisted chiefly of ignorant peasants, who were quite incapable of forming a rational opinion upon public questions. His Beatitude expressed his fears that this state of things must inevitably lead to anarchy and its consequences, one of which would be a foreign occupation unless some remedy could be found for it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 239.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 19.)

(No. 173.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 7, 1880.

MR. CONSUL-GENERAL BLUNT has forwarded to your Lordship copy of his despatch to me No. 16 of the 2nd instant, inclosing copies of letters showing the unsatisfactory state of affairs which prevails in Thessaly and Macedonia. I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have brought these statements to the notice of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 240.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 19.)

(No. 176. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 8, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a memorandum, given to me by Sir A. Sandison, of a conversation with Sawas Pasha about the state of Crete. In consequence of Consul Sandwith's representations, I had strongly urged upon his Excellency the necessity of recalling Halil Effendi from the island. Your Lordship will perceive that his Excellency informs me that he has persuaded his colleagues to do so, but he throws the blame of Halil Effendi's appointment upon Photiades Pasha himself. His Excellency's accusations against Mr. Sandwith of supporting the revolutionary party in Crete, which is working for the union of the island to Greece, is, I am convinced, entirely unfounded. However, I shall send Sir A. Sandison's memorandum to Mr. Sandwith for any observations that he may think it right to make upon it.

The question of the cession of Suda Bay to France, referred to by Sawas Pasha, is not a new one. Your Lordship will remember that Mr. Malet received information last spring that it had been discussed in the Council of Ministers, and that Hairedin Pasha, then Grand Vizier, was in favour of it. This information, I have reason to know, came from Sawas Pasha, who still maintains that the matter was submitted to the Council of Ministers of which he was then a member, but from the meeting of which he was absent when the question was brought before it by Hairedin Pasha, who, as your Lordship will recollect, gave the most categorical denial to the statement on the subject made to Mr. Malet. Which of the two, Hairedin or Sawas, is most deserving of credit I will not attempt to decide.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 240.

Memorandum.

(Very Confidential.) *February* 7, 1880.

I HAVE had a long conversation with Sawas Pasha on the subject of Crete, which I think it right to place on record for your Excellency's information. In reply to your instructions addressed to me respecting the dismissal of Halil Effendi, his Excellency began by stating that it was at the special recommendation of Photiades Pasha himself that that functionary had been raised to his present rank and position, and that Photiades Pasha had even gone so far as to insist upon Halil Effendi getting a much larger official salary than the circumstances of the island permitted, and that it was only by adding 4,000 piastres per month to it from the Sultan's Civil List that the difficulty had been got over. If, consequently, any one was to blame for the injudicious appointment, the responsibility must entirely rest with Photiades Pasha himself, who, after having so warmly advocated his nomination, now insists with the same energy upon the immediate dismissal of Halil Effendi. In spite, however, of the opposition made by the Turkish Ministers to his Excellency's demand to that effect, Sawas Pasha felt glad to be able to state that he had succeeded in persuading his colleagues to consent to Halil Effendi's removal from his present post.

Sawas Pasha proceeded next to describe the different political parties now existing in Crete, one of which aimed at annexation to Greece, another at raising the island into a Principality, and a third one at maintaining the existing state of things. Although the first-mentioned party might not be considered as exercising any great power or influence at the present moment, yet it included in its ranks elements which would eventually prove most dangerous. Sawas Pasha deeply regretted to say that it was this very party, having for its leaders men like "Bolanaki," "Papattiaki," and "Censert," of Athens, which was apparently being supported by Mr. Sandwith and Photiades Pasha himself. It was mainly to the influence of these men that well-known brigands actually owed the appointments ("Mutessarifliks") they now hold in some parts of the island, and it may be owing to the same cause that attempts were now being made, with some success already, to exclude altogether the use of the Turkish language from the General Assembly, to the general discontent and mortification of the Mussulman element.

Sawas Pasha went on to say that, whereas there was nothing in the last Organic "Règlement" to justify the dismissal of the officers (principally Albanians) who were already in the service of the then existing gendarmerie, Photiades Pasha had thought fit to send them all away to starve at Constantinople.

In duly considering the present tendency of matters in general, Sawas Pasha could not help coming to the painful conclusion that Crete must end by being finally annexed to Greece, but not without affording a strong and important naval station to France in Suda Bay. It was for your Excellency to consider, he added, whether such an acquisition on the part of France was likely to suit the interests and policy of Her Majesty's Government; at all events, he earnestly hoped that some influence might be brought to bear, through Mr. Sandwith if possible, upon Photiades Pasha, with the view of preventing this situation, for at least some time to come, from being brought about.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

P.S.—I forgot to mention that the Turkish Deputies had refused, as Sawas Pasha told me, to attend the General Assembly, one of the reasons given being the attempt which was being made to exclude from it the use of the Turkish language.

A. S.

No. 241.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 19.)

(No. 177.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 8, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship by this week's messenger a despatch to your Lordship from Consul-General Blunt, sent through me, under flying seal, relating to the present condition of Macedonia, and the proceedings of the military Tribunals in that province. The statements contained in Mr. Blunt's despatch appeared to me to be of so grave a nature, that I thought it desirable to communicate its substance to Sawas Pasha. I accordingly instructed Sir A. Sandison to remind his Excellency that I had recently brought to the notice of the Porte the arbitrary and oppressive proceedings of the military authorities in the districts of Serres and Cavalla, and especially in the village of Visnik; that to my representations, as, I regretted to say, was now usually the case, a simple denial had been given by the Vali of Salonica, I had forwarded the Porte's note on the subject to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica. It had led to fresh inquiries, and the statements I had previously made to the Porte had been more than confirmed. The proceedings of the military Tribunals and authorities were cruel and unjustifiable, and I was sending a report to your Lordship from Mr. Blunt which could not fail to make the most painful impression.

Innocent persons were arrested, thrown into prison, and cruelly treated, upon mere suspicion. Brigands and persons really guilty were either left at large, or, if captured, their escape was connived at.

Notwithstanding the denial of the Vali of this state of things, the complaints of the populations had compelled the Porte to send Ramis Effendi to inquire into them. It was time that martial law and arbitrary arrests should cease. If they did not do so speedily, they would drive the unfortunate Christian inhabitants of Macedonia to

despair, and the consequences might be very serious indeed, as intrigues were already very active to bring about a movement next spring. It was to be hoped that the Porte would be warned in time.

Sawas Pasha begged that a French translation of Mr. Blunt's despatch might be given to him, in order that he might send fresh instructions to the Vali of Salonica, and to Ramis Effendi, and I shall comply with his request. His Excellency expressed a hope, however, that in view of Mr. Bizzo's, Mr. Blunt's Dragoman, known hostility to the Turks and to the Turkish Government, his statements might be received with caution. Sir A. Sandison replied that Mr. Blunt was very particular as to the accuracy of his information, and that his statements to the Embassy were received with full confidence. Sawas Pasha then went on to say that the proceedings of the military Tribunals might have been arbitrary in many cases, but, nevertheless, there was not an instance in which they had passed sentence of death upon any person, whilst, as a rule, military Tribunals were known to be far more severe in other countries. He wished to state at the same time that, under the territorial arrangements of the Treaty of Berlin, it was impossible to look upon Sophia otherwise than as a centre of Russo-Bulgarian intrigue, tending to disturb the tranquillity of Macedonia and other provinces. It was the duty and interest of the Porte to guard against these dangers, and, though military Tribunals were not desirable institutions, their maintenance seemed almost indispensable in the present condition of the province, where the real cause of Bulgarian discontent was to be found in the intrigues of the Russian Consul, rather than in the oppressive proceedings of the Tribunals. His Excellency concluded by saying that he would, nevertheless, do all in his power to ensure more just and regular treatment of the cases brought before the military Tribunals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 242.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 180.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, February 9, 1880.

IN pursuance of the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 69 of the 29th ultimo, I have had the honour of assuring the Sultan personally of the very great satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt the important declaration which His Imperial Majesty had made to me with regard to his intention to maintain the principle of religious liberty to the fullest extent, and that this principle should be extended to His Majesty's Mussulman subjects of all classes. His Majesty expressed himself as highly gratified with your Lordship's message. He observed that it afforded him the greatest pleasure to find that Her Majesty's Government appreciated his sincere desire to maintain the principle of religious liberty throughout his dominions, and that I had rightly interpreted his sentiments in reporting them to your Lordship. During the evening I spent with His Majesty he more than once recurred to your Lordship's communication, which had evidently greatly pleased him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 243.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 187.)
My Lord,

Constantinople, February 10, 1880.

YOUR Lordship will have received from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica copies of his despatches to me No. 126 and 129 of the 9th and 12th December last respecting the dissatisfaction expressed by the Christian population of Salonica with the composition of the Local Commission appointed to report upon the Organic Law. On receipt of those despatches I made representations to the Porte on the subject, and it appears that the Commission has been remodelled in consequence.

I have the honour to inclose the translation of a telegram from the Vali of Salonica and of a despatch from Mr. Blunt in regard to this matter.

It would appear from the latter that the changes effected in the Commission have given satisfaction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 243.

Report addressed by the Vali of Salonica to the Prime Minister.—(Communicated confidentially to M. Marinich.)

(Translation.)

IN the telegram of your Highness, dated the 5th December, 1879, we understand that your Highness has been informed that the Commission that has been formed here to examine the laws of the vilayet consists of Christians, and that the majority of the Commission are officials, and that, in consequence, there are signs of discontent among the Christians, and your Highness orders that, as it is determined that the majority of the Commission should be of the people, it should so be done, and that care should be taken to conciliate the Christians. As your Highness will see from the inclosed note, the Commission is formed of ten Mussulmans and ten others, and that all are men of repute, and that there are four officials among the members, viz., Costantithi Pasha, Akiak Bey, Director of Posts and Telegraphs, and Avis and Abdi Effendiler, Chief Clerks of the Vilayet Appeal Court, and respectively 1st and 2nd sections of the Commission. Yet the above Akiak Bey and Avis and Abdi Effendiler, although they are officials, Akiak Bey is a man of Seiros, and possesses farms in the Sandjaks of Seiros and Salonica, and is, as it were, a native, and Avis and Abdi Effendiler are natives of Salonica and holders of property, and this, though there are officials, are not counted as such, but as members chosen from the people. And thus there is only the Mustesheer of the Vilayet, Constantithi Pasha, who is an official; the rest are all elected from the people, and if there are five or six members who are also members of the Courts and Councils, these cannot be called officials, since they are chosen from the people for the Courts and Councils, and finally, your Highness will understand from the inclosed note that the Commission is formed in accordance with the relative various populations.

(Signed) RIGAAB KIAHL.

9 *Moharrem*, 1297 (31 *December*, 1879).

Inclosure 2 in No. 243.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Sir,

Salonica, January 31, 1880.

IN returning herewith to your Excellency, as directed by your despatch of the 18th instant, the translated copy of the Vali's telegram to the Prime Minister, relative to the formation of the Local Commission on the Organic Statute of the provinces of Roumelia, I have the honour to report that, as I stated in my telegram of the 9th ultimo, great dissatisfaction was expressed by the Greek community at the composition of the Commission, which consisted of 11 Mahommedans, 7 Christians, and 2 Jews, on the grounds that the official element was largely represented, and the non-official but slightly.

I have every reason to believe that it was in consequence of your Excellency's urgent representations to the Porte that the Vali was directed to remodel the Commission in a spirit more in conformity with the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin. The result was that a new Commission was formed, in which the native element was more largely represented, and the official diminished. This Commission, composed of 10 Mussulmans, 8 Christians, and 2 Jews, whose names were inclosed in my despatch of the 30th ultimo, has met with a far better reception at the hands of all classes of the population than its predecessor. The Greek community in particular is much better satisfied, and the Greek Archbishop and other members of the Commission belonging to that community have frequently expressed to me their satisfaction at the readiness displayed by their Mussulman colleagues in the performance of their duties. I believe that the Commission has concluded the

examination of the Articles of the Organic Law, and is now preparing a Report upon its labours.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 244.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 188.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 10, 1880.*

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Sandwith's despatch No. 6 of the 24th ultimo, a copy of which he has forwarded to your Lordship, and to a telegram which he addressed to me on the 7th instant, of which a copy is inclosed, I have the honour to state that I have just received a telegram from that gentleman, informing me that Halil Bey has been recalled, and that the Turkish Government recognizes the right of the Cretan Assembly to vote the new Civil and Criminal Codes. It is satisfactory to find that my representations at the Porte have led to so favourable a result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 244.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Canea, Crete, February 7, 1880.*

WHEN General Assembly met to discuss new Codes of Civil and Criminal Law on the 1st instant, the Mahommedans refused to attend, on the ground of the incompetence of the Assembly to discuss them since [? publication] of the Codes by the Porte. The Christians being in a majority, and therefore constituting a legal Assembly, are now discussing the new Codes, and will find themselves [?].

Yesterday the Vali received a telegram from the Prime Minister declaring the Assembly incompetent to discuss Codes. Vali has replied that he dare not communicate to Assembly telegram from the Prime Minister, which would cause its dissolution and disturbances in the island. His Excellency thinks it would be better to allow Assembly to continue the discussion of Codes, reserving to the Porte the right of rejecting them afterwards. Vali waits for an answer. I think that if the Prime Minister's telegram were communicated to the Assembly it would provoke dangerous agitation.

No. 245.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 192.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February 11, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two despatches which Mr. Vice-Consul Dalziel has addressed to Mr. Ashburnham respecting affairs at Rustchuk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 245.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Ashburnham.

Sir, *Rustchuk, February 3, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that when the Russian evacuation took place last August large quantities of biscuit, both for men and horses, were in stock, and were sold by them at exceedingly low prices.

Lately those stores which remained in Tirnovo and other places have been bought up at very much enhanced prices, and are now being transported to Varna for shipment to Odessa.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 245.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Mr. Ashburnham.

Sir, *Rustchuk, February 3, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to you herewith a list of the Deputies elected for this Government on the 1st instant.

This list is complete with the exception of the four from Nicopolis, whose names are not yet known.

I am informed that in the Tirnovo Government the elections have resulted in naming thirty-nine Liberals and five Conservatives.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

List of Deputies elected February 1, 1880.—(Government of Rustchuk.)

District of Rustchuk (12)—				District of Plevna (*continued*)—			
The Archbishop	..	..	C	Sava Ivanoff	..	..	L
Dr. Mintchovitch	..	..	C	Athanas Kostoff	..	..	L
D. Grikoff	..	..	C	District of Eski-Djuma (3)—			
Erlogie Georgriff	..	..	C	Marko Waltchoff	..	..	L
Niazi Bey.				C. Simsaroff	..	..	L
Tifvik Bey.				M. Russieff	..	..	L
Aziz Effendi.				District of Nicopolis (4)—			
Hassan Effendi Bekir	..	..	C	The Governor of Rustchuk	..		C
Georgie Geroff	..	..	C	Three others (names unknown).			
Zanko Fileff	..	..	C	District of Rasgrad (8)—			
— Bourmoff	..	..	C	— Waltchanoff	..	..	C
Georgie Zankoff	..	..	L	(The Prefect of Rustchuk.)			
District of Sistov (3)—				J. Horosoff	..	..	L
Dragan Zankoff	..	..	L	Achmet Effendi (Dushter Bashli).			
— Aneff	..	..	C	Mehemed Effendi (Bairaktar).			
Georgie Knatchrivitch		..	C	Andrea Zanoff	..	..	L
District of Plevna (5)—				Gancho Zekoff	..	..	L
Christo Balaroff	..	..	L	Gani Tchernoff	..	..	L
Jatcho Brashlanoff.				Demetri Barnoff	..	..	L
Eremie Goshoff.							

No. 246.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 30. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 10, 1880.*

THE Austro-Hungarian Government, having reason to believe that secret negotiations have been carried on by M. Gambetta and the Republican or advanced party in Italy, with a view of stirring up in the Balkan Peninsular a state of things inimical to the interests of Austria, have sent instructions to their Agents in Greece and the Principalities to watch carefully the proceedings of all persons they may suspect of being engaged in the manner mentioned above.

These proceedings on the part of the advanced party in Italy and in France are intended, no doubt, to weaken Austria in the event of a possible war between Russia and France on one side and Germany and Austro-Hungary on the other. Italy thus hopes to find an opportunity of carrying out the "Italia Irredenta" policy, and Austria, occupied

in maintaining her interests towards the south-east, would not be in a position to support Germany as efficiently as if she had nothing to fear from the intrigues of Italy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 247.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 33.)
My Lord, *Athens, February 11, 1880.*

IN an interview I had this morning with M. Delyanni, his Excellency informed me that he had received a telegram from the Hellenic Representative at Constantinople, stating that the Earl of Beaconsfield had proposed that an International Commission should be formed to trace a new line of frontier on the basis suggested at Berlin.

The telegram further stated that the French Government had been semi-officially informed of his Lordship's proposition. I replied that I was ignorant of any such action on the part of the Prime Minister.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 248.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 133.)
My Lord, *Paris, February 18, 1880.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 31 of yesterday, I have the honour to report that I stated to M. de Freycinet this afternoon that Her Majesty's Government accepted his Excellency's interpretation of their proposal respecting the Greek frontier, but in doing so observed that though the International Commission would be at liberty to depart from the precise geographical points indicated in a general manner in the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin, its decisions, in order to bind by the majority of votes all the signatory Powers, must be in general conformity with the spirit and intention of that Protocol.

M. de Freycinet asked who was to be the judge? By whom, if not by the Commission itself, was it to be determined whether or no the decisions were in sufficient conformity with the Protocol? It would, he thought, be very unadvisable to leave any door open by which one or two dissentient Powers might withdraw from common action with the majority, and thus reopen the question and give rise to fresh delays. He considered that it followed, as a matter of course, that if the "mandat" of the Commission was to take the Protocol of Berlin as a basis, its decisions must be properly and reasonably in conformity with the spirit and intention of that Protocol. He should be very sorry to weaken in any way the obligation on the Powers to accept the decision of the majority; but he thought that the object of the observation of Her Majesty's Government might be attained by the insertion in the instructions to the Commission of a clause stating that it was to take in good faith and loyalty ("de bonne foi et loyalement") the Protocol of Berlin as its guide.

M. de Freycinet proceeded to tell me that he had made the Governments of Austria and Germany acquainted with the nature of the proposal of Her Majesty's Government, and with the disposition of the French Government to agree to it.

From the French Ambassador at Berlin M. de Freycinet had heard that M. de Radowitz had at first objected to the delay which would be caused by referring the question to a Commission, but had at last promised to recommend the proposal to the consideration of Prince Bismarck.

From Vienna nothing on the subject had yet reached the French Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 249.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 19.)

(No. 135.)
My Lord, *Paris, February 18, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 129 of the day before yesterday, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. de Freycinet told me this afternoon that he had sent instructions, by telegraph, to the French Agent at Bucharest, to present, in conjunction with his British and German colleagues, on the 20th instant, the identic note announcing the recognition of the independence of the Principality by his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 250.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Admiral Pothuau.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, February 19, 1880.*

YOUR Excellency has been good enough to communicate to me a memorandum, dated the 13th instant, referring to the desire expressed by the Porte to record the ratification of the Final Acts of certain of the Boundary Commissions established by the Treaty of Berlin by an exchange of notes among the Cabinets; and stating that the French Government are disposed to consent to this arrangement if it is concurred in by the other Powers.

In reply, I have the honour to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government would prefer to wait until the labours of all the Boundary Commissions were complete; but if the other Powers agree to the course now proposed Her Majesty's Government will not object to join in it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 251.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 72. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 15, 1880.*

THE Roumanian Minister having admitted to me the correctness of the report which Mr. White had mentioned to your Lordship of attempts made by the Russian Government to induce the Government of Prince Charles voluntarily to abandon their claim to Arab-Tabia, I inquired whether information to the same effect had reached the Austrian Government.

They had heard nothing of any such attempt being made, but they immediately telegraphed to their Minister at Bucharest to endeavour to ascertain the truth of the report, and his answer, which has now been received, has been confidentially communicated to me.

Count Hoyos states that he had been able to ascertain that both Prince Gortchacow and M. de Giers had in several conversations urged upon General Ghika the acceptance by Roumania of the Russian project of frontier, and that upon the objections of the General a compromise was proposed.

Since that time the matter has not been further discussed, and the Russian overtures remain unanswered.

Count Hoyos further reports that M. Boerescо had declared to him in the most decided manner that Roumania will never be a party to an arrangement to be made with a single Government, but will only accept the frontier to be determined by the Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 252.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 78. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 15, 1880.*

MR. KIRBY GREEN in his despatch No. 21, of which a copy was sent to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 52 of the 9th instant, reported the negotiation of a secret Convention between Austria and the Prince of Montenegro, the nature of which he had not been able to ascertain.

Mr. Green, doubting the correctness of the information given to him that the Convention had reference to the construction of a railroad across the territory of Antivari, is inclined to believe it to be of the nature of an agreement to allow the Montenegrins to make a temporary seizure of Scutari, in order to force the Porte to the surrender of Gusinjé and Plava.

I am at present unable to give your Lordship any information on the subject of this Convention, but there are many considerations to make me believe it more likely to be of the nature represented by Mr. Green's informant than of that which he himself suspects.

The Austrian Government have always shown a nervous dread of any extension of Montenegro upon the Albanian side, and as there can be no doubt of their anxiety that a conflict between the Montenegrins and the Albanians may be avoided, I cannot but think it improbable that they would now enter into a Convention encouraging an act of aggression certain to lead to much future embarrassment.

On the other hand, as it was stated in the XXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin that Montenegro was to come to an understanding with Austria upon the construction of a road and railroad across its new territory, it is not improbable that an arrangement upon that subject may have been concluded.

Mr. Kirby Green, commenting in the same despatch upon the assistance given by the Austrians in the construction of roads towards Cettinjé, remarks that though these may be made with the view of strengthening the Principality against attack, they will also facilitate offensive military operations, but I have reason to believe that the Prince has been encouraged to make these roads from an impression prevailing here that the real strength of Montenegro consists in their absence, which renders the country nearly inaccessible to regular troops.

When Prince Nicholas visited Vienna last year, and received from the Emperor the present of a carriage and a team of horses, I commented on the strangeness of such a gift to a Ruler who had not a mile of road in his dominions, and the answer made to me was: "Oh, but he is anxious to make them, and we shall do everything to help him, for where his carriage can go our guns can also pass if the necessity should ever arise."

Count Andrassy frequently remarked to me that it was only from the side of Scutari that Montenegro could be attacked, and my belief certainly is, that in contributing to the construction of these roads the Austrian Government has been more actuated by this consideration than by anything else.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 253.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 78.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 17, 1880.*

THE treatment of the Mahommedan populations in the Dobrudscha by the Roumanian Government offers a gratifying contrast to that to which they are exposed elsewhere.

The Turkish Ambassador has spoken of it to me with lively expressions of gratitude, saying that by such conduct the Roumanian Government will attract an industrious people from the neighbouring districts where they are ill-used, who will prove trustworthy defenders in the event of future Bulgarian encroachments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 254.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 79. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 17, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 73 respecting the negotiations that Mr. Kirby Green reports to have been going on between Austria and Montenegro, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I am assured by Baron Calice that they only have reference to the maritime and sanitary police of Antivari, and the arrangements respecting the navigation of that port alluded to in the XXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

In reply to a question I put to him, his Excellency said that the question of a road or railroad was not touched upon in the present Agreement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 255.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 80.)
My Lord, *Vienna, February 17, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the inclosed despatch, which has been addressed to me by Lieutenant-Colonel Primrose, Military Attaché to this Embassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 255.

Lieutenant-Colonel Primrose to Sir H. Elliot.

Sir, *Vienna, February 14, 1880.*

THE following are the results of the census taken in Bosnia and Herzegovina by the Austro-Hungarian authorities on the 15th June, 1879:—

The population in the occupied districts amounts to 1,142,147, of which 599,026 are males and 543,121 are females.

There are 442,500 Mussulmans, 3,426 Jews, 487,022 Pravoslavs, or Orthodox, 208,050 Roman Catholics, and 249 of other sects.

There are 627,414 single people, 446,138 who are married, and 68,595 widowed.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina there are 37 towns, 4,894 villages, and 34 markets.

The most populated districts are Banjaluka (with 85,753 inhabitants), and Jaice (with 46,473 inhabitants). Serajevo, 31,377 inhabitants (of which 14,848 are Ottoman). Mostar has 10,846 inhabitants; Trawnik, 5,887; Livno, 4,597, &c. Of these numbers the Mussulmans form the majority in the towns.

2,077 Jews are in Serajevo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EVERARD PRIMROSE.

No. 256.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 20.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, February 19, 1880, 11·50 P.M.*

MUCH alarm among Greeks, so-called National Committee having a short time ago issued orders throughout province to prevent Bulgarians from dealing with them. Panaretos, Bulgarian Metropolitan, has caused letter to be read in churches enforcing that order under pain of excommunication. Several outrages against Greeks have consequently occurred. Last Sunday two members of a leading Greek family narrowly escaped hanging in Bulgarian village close to Philippopoli while collecting rents; saved by gendarmes, after having been bound and beaten.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 257.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 20, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 16. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, February* 20, 1880, 1·20 P.M.

FROM the language of Governor-General with reference to appointment of Director of Justice, I suspect he will threaten to resign if the Porte rejects. Director of Finance thinks so likewise.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 258.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, February* 20, 1880.

YOUR telegram of the 17th February.

Identic note has been delivered to Roumanian Foreign Minister by the Acting Consuls-General of France and Germany and by myself this morning. In the afternoon I presented my credentials in audience to Prince Charles.

No. 259.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 20.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, February* 20, 1880.

MAY I give French Minister for Foreign Affairs a copy of your despatch No. 150 of the 17th instant about Greek frontier?

No. 260.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 20, 4·30 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, February* 20, 1880, 12·50 P.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 17th, on the subject of armed bands reported by Consul-General Blunt as crossing from Kustendil, Bulgarian Minister for Foreign Affairs has promised to telegraph to Governor of that place for information; but he believes that these bands are probably merely brigands.

Similar reports have been received here of armed Mussulmans crossing into Bulgaria, and have been communicated to Porte.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 261.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 75.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 20, 1880.

I APPROVE the language used by your Excellency, as reported in your despatch No. 64 of the 9th instant, respecting the efforts that have been recently made to arrange the unsettled questions with regard to the new frontier of Montenegro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 262.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 26. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February* 7, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Lordship the following transcript of the explanations furnished to me by Voïvoda Radonich on the subject of your Lordship's telegram of the 2nd instant:—

"Sur la communication confidentielle du Gouvernement Italien que les Puissances sont disposées de traiter avec la Porte la question d'échange, le Gouvernement de Monténégro lui fit part des conditions auxquelles il l'accepterait.

"Nous croyons que ce sont les Puissances qui traitent l'affaire.

"Le Gouvernement Princier ne prend ni initiative ni responsabilité."

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 263.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 12. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February* 8, 1880.

AT the third sitting of the General Assembly which took place on the 1st instant the new Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure with which it is proposed to endow the island were brought forward for discussion. The Mussulman Deputies, who number thirty-one out of a total of eighty, handed in a protest against the right of the Assembly to vote the new Codes, alleging (1) that Article 4 of the Firman granting fresh privileges to the Cretans (bearing the date of the 15th October, 1878) gave the Assembly the right to draw up immediately the Codes in question, and that as this had not been done at their first Session the right had now lapsed; (2) that since the second clause of the same Article states that the new laws were intended to supplement the deficiencies of the existing laws, there was no longer any necessity for them since the recent publication by the Porte of Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure which were applicable to the whole Empire.

These arguments the President, Photiades Pasha, met by reminding the objectors that it was for him, in his quality of Representative of the Sovereign, to defend that Sovereign's rights, which he did not consider the new scheme of legislation in any way encroached upon, especially since it could not become law without His Majesty's sanction.

The Christian members replied categorically to the objections brought forward, the first of which they considered without weight, as time was absolutely wanting in the first Session for proposing the new laws. Against the second objection they urged that the Codes published by the Porte could not be considered legal till they had received the sanction of the Imperial Parliament, on which very ground they had been rejected by Midhat Pasha, the Vali of Damascus; and they added that they understood that the heads of foreign Missions at Constantinople had declined to recognize them as applicable to foreigners until they were corrected by competent lawyers. They then made an effort to dissuade their Mussulman colleagues from seceding from the Assembly, remarking that they had all along expressed themselves as perfectly satisfied with the new Codes with which all the members had become familiar by their publication in the local newspaper.

It is only indeed during the three or four days preceding the opening of the Assembly that a spirit of opposition had displayed itself, and it can be traced in the main to the influence of the Mussulman Counsellor, a certain Halil Bey, who has from the beginning looked with a cold eye on the whole scheme of judicial reform as specially applicable to Crete.

When the Mussulman Deputies found that their Christian colleagues determined to continue their sittings notwithstanding their defection, they declared them to be illegal, seeing that their own community was unrepresented. The Christians then quoted Article 19 of the Organic Law on the organization of the General Assembly, which declares that half the Deputies plus one constitutes a quorum, and as they number forty-nine out of the entire eighty, they held that that condition was fully

satisfied. The President could not dispute the position thus taken up by the Christians, being besides loth to see the work, on the carrying out of which he had set his heart, shipwrecked by unworthy intrigues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 264.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 13. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February* 8, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, copy of a Confidential despatch which I have written to his Excellency Sir Henry Layard reporting certain important telegrams which have passed between the Vali and the Porte on the subject of the right of the General Assembly to vote Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure now that the Porte has anticipated it by the publication of Codes of its own.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 264.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Canea, Crete, February* 8, 1880.

YESTERDAY Photiades Pasha informed my French colleague and me that he had the evening before received a telegram from Said Pasha stating that the Council of Ministers had deliberated on the question raised by the Mussulman Deputies of the General Assembly as to the competency of that body to vote the Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure, by reason of the publication by the Porte of new Codes; and that they had confirmed the opinion of the Mussulmans in denying that right. Photiades Pasha was therefore invited to acquaint the Christian moiety of the Assembly with their decision.

The Vali proceeded to inform us that he had drawn up, and was on the point of dispatching, a telegram to the Porte in the following sense:—

"I cannot undertake, unless your Highness reiterates the order, to communicate to the Assembly the decision of the Council of Ministers. Were I to do so the inevitable result would be to bring about its dissolution with consequent troubles in the country. The Christian Deputies would at once declare the order illegal, in virtue of Article 16 of the 'Arrangement' of the 15th October, 1878. The Code of Civil Procedure has already been voted, and that of Criminal Procedure will be voted to-day. In my opinion, then, it would be wiser to allow the Assembly to remain in ignorance of your Highness' telegram, the Porte reserving its right to approve or reject the projected Codes. I await further orders."

Article 16 above referred to is the following:—

"Si des Ordonnances Ministérielles sont transmises contrairement à l'indépendance des Tribunaux, aux lois en vigueur et au Règlement de l'Ile, ces Ordonnances ne seront pas mises à exécution."

After my interview with the Vali I telegraphed the substance of the above incident to your Excellency.

Both the French Consul and I concurred in thinking that Photiades Pasha had exercised a wise discretion in withholding the Prime Minister's telegram from the Assembly. Had it been received before they had begun deliberating on the new Codes the communication might have been borne, but when they had been occupied with their discussion for six hours a day throughout the entire week, had already voted the Civil Procedure, and were on the point of voting the Criminal, it would have been a hazardous experiment to have told them that all their work had been thrown away.

The Pasha being on the spot is the best judge of the situation, and he anxiously hopes that the Prime Minister will not reiterate his order.

The following considerations occur to me in reviewing these events:—

The right to draw up the Codes in question had never been withdrawn from the

Assembly, and forty-nine members out of eighty being present the legal requirement of half plus one to constitute a quorum was amply fulfilled. The inference that, because new Codes had been promulgated by the Porte, therefore they were applicable to Crete, is an assumption which betrays the ignorance of the Porte as to the details of the recent Cretan legislation. The Sultan had sanctioned the judicial organization for Crete voted by last year's Assembly, and between that organization and the new Imperial Codes of Procedure there are glaring incongruities, as, for example, in the institution of "Juges de Paix," of which the Codes take no cognizance. Indeed, the right to vote the new Codes is a logical sequence of the right to introduce a new judicial organization, and both stand or fall together.

There is every reason to believe that the opposition of the Porte to the Codes elaborated by M. Scalzounis is due to miserable intrigues got up by Halil Bey, the Mussulman Counsellor, who has been ceaselessly poisoning all the local sources of information open to the Mussulman Deputies since their arrival here, for they were at first favourably inclined to the new Codes, and this Halil Bey has doubtless been imbuing Turkish Ministers with his own narrow views.

The Porte, moreover, has been cognizant for the past two months of the intention of the Assembly to propose new Codes of Procedure, for when they first appeared as projects of law in the Cretan official journal, the Prime Minister telegraphed to Photiades Pasha to inquire the reason of their publication, and his Excellency informed him that they were published in order that the people might have an opportunity of studying them before they were brought to the formal notice of the Deputies at the next Session of the Assembly.

No answer was returned to this explanation, which the Vali naturally concluded had proved satisfactory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 265.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 14. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February* 9, 1880.

IN an interview which I have just had with Photiades Pasha, his Excellency informed me that he yesterday received two telegrams from the Porte. The first announced that the Mussulman Counsellor, Halil Bey, had been ordered to repair to the capital, and that his place will be occupied provisionally by a certain Hamid Bey, a Cretan, who had formerly acted in the same capacity. The second telegram was in answer to one sent by his Excellency on the eve of the opening of the Assembly, in which he acquainted the Porte with a pretension which, he was aware, the Christian Deputies were prepared to advance, viz., that the Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure to be voted might be put into execution without waiting for the sanction of the Porte, on the ground of the impossibility of the Tribunals properly fulfilling their duties without Codes to guide them; the Deputies adding that, judging from previous experience, months would elapse before the Porte would confirm the Codes. They declared themselves willing, however, to accept such modifications as the Central Government might eventually see fit to introduce. The pretension of the Christians was based on Article 31 of the Organic Law, which gives the Vali the power in certain cases to confirm provisionally the votes of the Assembly. Photiades Pasha, however, took care to point out to the Deputies that their demand was incompatible with Article 4 of the Firman of October 1878, which had special reference to the right accorded to the Assembly to vote the new Codes, and which expressly reserves the right of the Imperial Government to sanction them.

The Vali accordingly, while telegraphing this demand, informed the Deputies that, in virtue of that Article, he made a formal reserve of the right of the Porte to confirm or modify the new Codes when voted. The second telegram of the Porte, therefore, approved the conduct of the Vali in this matter, and while recognizing the right of the Assembly to vote Codes of Procedure, formally reserved its right of confirmation. This telegram, which was *en clair*, his Excellency communicated to the Assembly at its sitting of yesterday, so that the question of the right of the Christian moiety of the Assembly to vote the Codes, notwithstanding the previous publication of the Imperial

Codes, and in spite of the abstention of the Mussulman Deputies from the meetings of the Assembly, is no longer in dispute.

I had the honour to report the untoward attitude taken up on this question by the Mussulman Deputies in my despatch No. 12 of yesterday's date, and by the inclosure of No. 13 your Lordship would have learnt the nature of the telegrams which had passed between the Vali and the Porte, regarding the right of the Assembly to vote Codes of Procedure since the publication by the Government of similar Codes. That question may now be considered as happily set at rest, Photiades Pasha having already communicated to the Assembly the decision of the Porte thereon.

Meanwhile, yesterday's meeting of the Assembly was occupied in modifying the law on mortgage passed by the last Assembly.

In the sitting of to-day, at which the Mussulman Deputies will resume their places, the Budget of the island will be submitted to the Assembly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 266.

Consul Reade to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 1. Political.)
Corfu, February 17, 1880.

My Lord,

ON the 20th November last I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship certain information relative to brigandage in Acarnania, which had been reported to me by Mr. Onofrio, the British Vice-Consul in Santa Maura.

I also reported on the subject to Her Majesty's Minister in Athens, and subsequently heard that the law enacted in 1871 for the suppression of brigandage had been put in force in all the frontier districts, including Santa Maura, and that Colonel Tziros, an officer who had formerly distinguished himself in the pursuit of brigands, had been appointed to the command of a flying column for this special service.

It was thus hoped that the band of brigands under the Chief "Dussi" would be taken or dispersed, but, on the contrary, I now hear that another band under a certain "Taki" has made its appearance, and is infesting the districts of Catuna and Lutraki (Eparchy of Keromeros), and also that other bands, composed mostly of men who took part in the raids into the bordering provinces in 1878, are still mustering on the Acarnanian frontier.

As these scenes are close to the Gulf of Arta, the Mahommedans of that district (Arta) recently memorialized the Porte on the necessity of reinforcing the garrison of the district.

I may here mention that about ten days ago two Englishmen were on the borders of the Gulf of Arta, where, from their account, they had a narrow escape from what they took to be a band of lawless characters, if not brigands, and who appeared to be roaming about quite at their ease.

From all this one would be led to doubt whether the Government of Athens were in earnest when putting the 1871 Law in force, and dispatching Colonel Tziros to Acarnania, the more so as I hear that the state of uncertainty as to the district in question has not in any way decreased, nor can these matters be calculated to attract the favour of the Powers in behalf of Greece.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 267.

Captain Sale to Mr. Sanderson.—(*Received February* 21.)

February 18, 1880.

Dear Mr. Sanderson,

I HAVE herein put in writing what I mentioned to you verbally this afternoon.

Caillard writes to say that, in the course of a private conversation, Voukovič, the Montenegrin Chargé d'Affaires at the Porte, stated that a certain proposal for an exchange of territory near Gusinjé, made by the Turks some two and a-half months ago, would have been accepted by the Montenegrins but for Austrian opposition.

SKETCH
ILLUSTRATING THE PROPOSITION FOR AN EXCHANGE OF TERRITORY ON THE MONTENEGRIN-ALBANIAN FRONTIER,
MADE BY THE PORTE EARLY IN DEC. 1879.

18/2/1880

Harrison & Sons Lith. St Martin's Lane W.C.

The proposition in question is detailed in the inclosed paper; it involves handing over to the Montenegrins the narrow strip of country (coloured green in the tracing) which lies between the Lim and the Treaty frontier. It was to this that the Austrian opposition was no doubt due.

I have thought it right to bring this to notice, in case the other and more recent proposition should fail, as, if Voukovič's statement be correct, this is the only one yet offered which both the Turks and Montenegrins would accept.

That the proposition was made is confirmed by the Turkish Commissioner. It was made direct to the Montenegrins, without the intervention of a third party. The narrow strip of ground in the Novi-Bazar Sandjak seems very unimportant to the Austrians, as it does not interfere with any of the routes traversing that district.

Caillard's conversation was of course a private one, and he reported it for my information only; but though it comes in an irregular way, it seemed right to give you the substance of it.

I have asked Caillard to be particular not to enter into any discussions concerning the Montenegrin frontier unless he has the sanction of the Embassy for so doing.

I am, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE.

Inclosure 1 in No 267.

Proposition for an Exchange of Territory on the Montenegrin-Albanian Frontier made by the Porte to the Montenegrins early in December last.

INSTEAD of following the line laid down in the Treaty of Berlin, the new frontier, to leave the River Tara at a point near Mojkovač, to cross to the Lim by the most natural line, striking that river near where the Lubovicā stream joins it, then to run along the Lim until it reaches the district of Gusinjé-Plava, which are to be left to Turkey with the exception of the Slav villages therein contained; thence it follows the limits of the Clementi Grudi as far as a bridge over the Zem near where it comes out on the Podgoricā plain.

From thence it passes to the Plavinica of the Austrian Staff Map.

The Porte also to pay a certain sum of money to Montenegro.

(Signed) M. T. SALE.

February 18, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 267.

Sketch illustrating the Proposition for an Exchange of Territory on the Montenegrin-Albanian Frontier.

No. 268.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 145.)

My Lord, *Paris, February* 20, 1880.

IN my despatch No. 133 of the day before yesterday I had the honour to inform your Lordship that I had on that day stated to M. de Freycinet, in the terms of your Lordship's telegram of the day before, that Her Majesty's Government accepted his Excellency's interpretation of their proposal accepting the Greek frontier, but accompanied their acceptance with the observation that the decisions of the intended Commission must be in general conformity with the spirit and intention of the 13th Protocol of the Congress of Berlin.

I have this morning had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 150 of the 17th instant, in which the views of Her Majesty's Government respecting this matter are set forth fully.

It seems to me to be desirable that M. de Freycinet should be made acquainted with the full statement contained in that despatch, and that a written record of the views of Her Majesty's Government should remain in the French Foreign Office.

I have consequently asked this morning by telegraph your Lordship's permission to give a copy of the despatch to M. de Freycinet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 269.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 146.)
Paris, February 20, 1880.

My Lord,

M. DE FREYCINET has just sent me "officieusement" a copy of a despatch which he sends this evening to the French Ambassador in London, on the subject of the observation with which Her Majesty's Government accompanied their acceptance of the French interpretation of their proposal to refer the Greek Frontier question to an International Commission.

I have the honour to transmit a copy to your Lordship herewith.

Your Lordship will perceive that the despatch gives a formal summary of what M. de Freycinet said to me in the conversation of which I had the honour to send to your Lordship a report, in rather more familiar language, in my despatch No. 133 of the 18th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 269.

M. de Freycinet to Admiral Pothuau.

Paris, le 20 Fevrier, 1880.

M. l'Amiral,

JE vous ai exposé, dans ma dépêche du 11 de ce mois, mon impression sur la proposition Anglaise pour la délimitation de la frontière Grecque; tout en vous faisant part des objections que ce projet me paraissait de nature à soulever, je m'étais attaché à rechercher les éléments pratiques d'une entente avec Lord Salisbury et à interpréter sa pensée dans un sens favorable à la prompte solution que nous croyons nécessaire d'obtenir. C'est sous le bénéfice de ces explications que nous avons adhéré à la suggestion Anglaise.

Vous m'avez fait savoir par votre télégramme du 17 que vous aviez donné avis à Lord Salisbury de notre réponse. J'ai reçu depuis la visite de Lord Lyons, qui m'a annoncé que le Gouvernement Britannique, après avoir pris connaissance des observations que vous avez été chargé de lui transmettre, et auxquelles nous avions subordonné notre adhésion au projet qu'il a l'intention de soumettre officiellement aux Puissances, se trouvait d'accord avec nous sur le sens et la portée de cette combinaison. En ce qui concerne donc la fixation du tracé sommaire qui devra servir de point de départ aux travaux de démarcation, et en général pour toute la procédure à suivre, il est entendu que la Commission, sur la base du Protocole 13, restera libre de ses mouvements et que ses décisions, prises à la majorité des voix, seront souveraines.

Le langage de Lord Lyons a été, à cet égard, aussi affirmatif que nous pouvions le désirer. Toutefois il était chargé par son Gouvernement de spécifier avec moi qu'il devrait être bien convenue que la Commission serait tenue de conformer ses résolutions à l'esprit du Traité de Berlin.

J'ai répondu à M. l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre que je ne m'expliquai pas bien l'objet de cette dernière observation. La pensée qu'il m'exprimait, lui ai je dit, n'avait en elle-même rien que de conforme à notre sentiment, et il est bien évident que le Traité de Berlin étant le fondement de la discussion présente, c'est en effet des intentions du Congrès que la Commission devra s'inspirer pour arriver à la conclusion de son œuvre. Mais en posant, sous la forme d'une réserve expresse, une condition qui est en réalité implicitement contenu dans les mandats des Commissions, le Cabinet de Londres semblerait vouloir, d'une façon indirecte, limiter le mandat qu'il nous invite lui-même à leur confier, et le résultat de cette manière d'agir pourrait être de faire surgir plus tard des causes de malentendus. Chaque Puissance réclamerait le droit de soumettre éventuellement les décisions de la Commission à un contrôle special sur la

question de savoir si telle ou telle résolution est bien d'accord avec l'esprit du Traité du 13 Juillet, et comme les Cabinets demeureraient seuls juges de leurs appréciations, la loi de la majorité, proposée par l'Angleterre, et qui est à nos yeux une condition essentielle de l'entente entre les Puissances, se trouverait compromise. Dès lors le but même que nous poursuivons en remettant à une Commission Internationale spéciale le soin de déterminer la frontière définitive serait manqué.

En présentant ces réflexions à l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre, j'ai ajouté qu'il me paraissait inutile de nous arrêter à des hypothèses invraisemblables et d'exclure par anticipation des tracés qui seraient en dehors du programme du Congrès de Berlin, mais que nous croirions répondre d'une manière satisfaisante à la véritable pensée du Gouvernement de la Reine en admettant avec lui que les Commissaires recevraient pour instructions d'interpréter le 13e Protocole "loyalement et de bonne foi." Sur ce terrain tout le monde se trouverait facilement d'accord, et c'est dans cette mesure que nous estimions acceptable la réserve Anglaise.

Lord Lyons a bien voulu reconnaître la justesse de mes observations et m'a promis de les transmettre à Lord Salisbury. Je vous prie de vous expliquer de votre côté dans le même sens avec le principal Secrétaire d'Etat, de manière à écarter dès à présent toute ambiguïté sur le caractère de l'assentiment que nous sommes disposés à donner aux ouvertures du Cabinet Anglais.

No. 270.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February 20, 1880, 5·50 P.M.*

REFERRING to my telegram No. 69, Consul Calvert states he is unable to supply translation of Organic Law. He previously only alluded to translation of modification of that law, suggested by Adrianople Commission. The law is a book of over 100 printed pages. Would your Lordship like to authorize me to have a translation made outside the Embassy?

No. 271.

Colonel Maude to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Warsaw, February 20, 1880.*

A GENERAL muster of all the horses in Poland is being held, similar to that adopted at the outbreak of the Turkish war.

No. 272.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 171.)
Foreign Office, February 21, 1880.

My Lord,

IN reply to your Excellency's telegram No. 11 of yesterday's date, I have to inform you that I have no objection to your giving to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs a copy of my despatch No. 150 of the 17th instant relative to the Greek Frontier question.

I have, however, to instruct your Excellency, before delivering the copy to M. de Freycinet, to substitute for the words "call on the two Powers to listen" the words "urge on the two Powers to listen."

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 273.

Memorandum by Sir J. Paunccfote respecting Greek Frontier.

MUSURUS PASHA called to-day in consequence of a telegram he has received from the Porte, who are in great consternation and alarm at the news they have received from Paris on this subject. They are anxious to know whether Her Majesty's Government have agreed that the Commission is to decide by a majority, and that such decision is to be obligatory. He contends that the Powers have no right to impose a frontier-line on Turkey. The Berlin Treaty and Protocols only authorized mediation, and the solution of the difficulty should, in the first place, be sought by mediation, so that the Powers may ascertain what Turkey is willing to concede and her reasons for refusing all that is claimed by Greece. This might lead to an ultimate settlement, and would be more just to Turkey in a matter where Greece has everything to gain and Turkey everything to give up. The Porte cannot be represented on the Commission, for she would thereby be bound by the result. The Commission would, therefore, decide without hearing her in her own defence. This is not mediation, but an arbitrary proceeding not warranted by the Treaty of Berlin, and inconsistent with the rights of Turkey.

He strongly urged that the Powers should commence by limiting their action to mediation.

He is anxious for a reply which he can communicate to his Government as early as possible, owing to the state of agitation into which they have been put by their advices from Paris. He asked me whether, in your absence, you would have any objection to his seeing Lord Beaconsfield on the subject.

J. P.

February 21, 1880.

No. 274.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, February* 21, 1880.

FOLLOWING sent to Consul Henderson to-day:—

"I have very full accounts from Nourian Effendi of occurrences at Alexandretta, and [?] you have been deceived by British Vice-Consul, into whose conduct you ought to inquire, especially as regards his receiving title to some land from Governor to support him. It appears to me that dismissal of Governor was absolutely necessary, and that French demand in that respect was fully justified."

No. 275.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, February* 22, 1880, 12·45 A.M.

YOUR telegrams Nos. 73 and 75.

Your proceedings are approved.

Her Majesty's Government are disposed to give reasonable amount for ransom, but the amount asked should be ascertained before any promise is made.

Mr. Blunt should communicate directly with this Office and with yourself.

No. 276.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 22, 1 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, February* 22, 1880.

REPETITION of telegram No. 16 of February 20:—

"(Confidential.)

"The new Director of Justice induced the Governor-General to-day to appoint as President of the Local Criminal Court a deputy known to be most violent member of Secret Committee, and who was described to me by Her Majesty's Consul at Bourgas,

in a despatch of the 27th August last year, as the supposed head of an 'association of robbers and murderers.' (See Blue Book, in press, p. 65.)

"Director of Finance has compelled the Governor-General to withdraw letter of appointment pending further inquiry."

No. 277.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 23.)

(No. 27. Secret.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, February* 6, 1880.

ALL the accounts received at Bucharest from Moldavia concur in describing the activity of the pro-Russian party on the increase.

The chief of this agitation is Prince Gregory Stourdza, whom I have had previously occasion to mention to your Lordship; he is evidently spending much money for the purpose of promoting his plans; he sends agents about who receive a friendly reception at Russian Consulates; he subsidizes numerous political and humoristic journals, gets new ones started, and is even supposed to seek to establish relations with subaltern officers in the army, whose interests he has taken very much to heart, recommending an increase of pay for these in his papers and speeches.

It was supposed that he was receiving funds from his father, the former Hospodar Stourdza, now residing at Paris, but I am assured by a relative of his that this is not the case.

The attitude of the Boyard party towards this prominent leader is as yet not very well defined, but the hostility towards Prince Charles, and with regard to any disposition on his part for an alliance with Austro-Hungary, is very much on the increase in the ranks of the Opposition.

Exclusive reliance on Russian support and hostility to foreigners, something in the style of the former know-nothings of the United States, are the characteristics of the new Roumanian aristocratic party, which calls itself National Democratic.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 278.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 23.)

(No. 28. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, February* 7, 1880.

I HEAR that M. Coumany, till lately Russian Consul-General in Paris, passed through Bucharest a few days ago on his way to Sophia, where he will take charge of the Russian Agency during M. Davidoff's absence.

Last May Count Schouvaloff mentioned to me in London that, in his opinion, Prince Alexander would derive immense benefits if M. Coumany could be induced to go to Bulgaria as general adviser to His Highness. He was at one time Secretary of Embassy at Constantinople, and has the reputation in Russian society of being a very superior man in the Diplomatic Service.

M. Coumany was so pressed for time that he saw but few people at Bucharest; he had, however, an audience of Prince Charles, who was greatly pleased with him, and, strange to say, he had likewise, I am assured, a long interview at the Russian Legation with Prince G. Stourdza.

He met the Prince of Bulgaria at Roustchouk.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 279.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 23.)

(No. 30.) *Bucharest, February* 9, 1880.

My Lord,

AS I had the honour to report to your Lordship by telegraph, the Prince of Bulgaria passed through Bucharest on his way to St. Petersburgh; he remained here three days, one day more than he had intended at first.

As he announced his desire to travel *incognito*, there was no official reception, but the Ottoman Minister, myself, and some other persons were spoken to by His Highness on the ice reserved for skating, where he accompanied Prince Charles and the Princess.

The Austrian Envoy, Count Hoyos, had a private interview with him.

It appears that His Highness spoke to several persons in very strong terms with reference to his difficulties in governing Bulgaria, which he ascribes to the influence of Russian Committees, and to the line adopted during Prince Doudoukoff's Administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 280.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 23.)

(No. 32. Confidential.) *Bucharest, February* 9, 1880.

My Lord,

DURING the protracted and rather unpleasant discussions on the Railway Bill assurances appear to have been made by the Ministers to their supporters in the Chambers from which these inferred that by disposing of that delicate question all further difficulties as regards Jewish emancipation would be removed, at least for the present.

The opponents of the Government asserted, on the contrary, that the sop to Germany would prove entirely useless, and that Roumania would never obtain full recognition as long as the Bratiano Ministry continued in office.

The state of public affairs here, especially since Prince G. Stourdza has come forward as a Leader, is becoming so confused that any new doubts as to the probability of prompt recognition by the three Powers would be sure to bring on a Ministerial crisis, possibly followed by a secret alliance with Russia.

It cannot be for a moment supposed that any of the three Powers can be desirous of bringing about such a result, but it may be feared that imperfect information as to the existing feeling in Roumania might lead to strain the legal point beyond what the Roumanians would be disposed to endure.

The proposal recommended by your Lordship to the French Government combines a proper regard for Treaty rights, with due consideration for the actual local difficulties.

The conversations of M. de Bacourt, French Acting Representative here, with M. Bocresco with reference to the Jewish question and to the rights of Frenchmen to purchase rural property in Roumania have greatly alarmed this Government, leading them to apprehend a reopening of these questions by France prior to recognition.

M. Bratiano has pointed out to Count Hoyos and myself the serious consequences which might ensue, and I have felt it my duty to bring this possible danger to the favourable consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 281.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 23.)

(No. 33.) *Bucharest, February* 10, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Bill to enable the Government to purchase from the German Company the railway lines on the terms

stipulated in a Convention annexed to that law, having received the sanction of Prince Charles I, was this day promulgated in due form in the official journal, "Monitorul."

The managing Board at Berlin has convoked a General Assembly of shareholders for the 3rd March next, for the purpose of sanctioning the Convention of these lines to the Roumanian Government.

I have the honour to inclose a copy of the notice published to that effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 281.

Extract from "L'Independance Roumaine" of February $\frac{8}{15}$, 1880.

SOCIÉTÉ DES ACTIONNAIRES DES CHEMINS DE FER ROUMAINS.—En vertu des sections 37 et dernier des Statuts de notre Société, nous convoquons par la présente :

Une Assemblée Générale extraordinaire des actionnaires pour le Mercredi $\frac{20 \text{ Février}}{3 \text{ Mars}}$, 1880, à 10 heures du matin, dans l'Hôtel de Roma, Charlottenstrasse, No. 44 et 45, à Berlin.

Ordre du Jour.

1. Autorisation à donner aux représentants de la Société des Actionnaires des Chemins de Fer Roumains pour conclure avec le Gouvernement Princier Roumain la Convention relative à la cession et au transfert de l'administration et de l'exploitation du réseau des lignes ferrées de la Société, ainsi que de toute la gestion de l'entreprise sociale, en vertu de la Loi Roumaine du $\frac{20 \text{ Janvier}}{1 \text{ Février}}$ de l'année courante, et du projet de Convention indiqué plus loin.

2. Approbation des modifications à apporter aux Statuts, à la suite de la Convention mentionnée au No. 1 de l'Ordre du Jour, c'est-à-dire :

(*a.*) Suppression du section 15 jusqu'au 18e; 28, 33 jusqu'au 36e; 46, 51 jusqu'au 54e; et du paragraphe additionnel 4, du 10 Juillet, 1874.

(*b.*) Modification des sections 2, 3, 5, 7, 14, 19 jusqu'à 24; 27, 29, 30 jusqu'à 32; 37, 39, 41 jusqu'à 43; 45, 48 jusqu'à 50; et des paragraphes additionnels 1 jusqu'à 3 du 12 Novembre, 1872.

Des exemplaires imprimés de la Loi Roumaine du $\frac{20 \text{ Janvier}}{1 \text{ Février}}$ de l'année courante et du projet de Convention, ainsi que des modifications aux Statuts seront mis à la disposition des actionnaires au siége de la Société à dater du $\frac{3}{15}$ Février de l'année courante.

Pour pouvoir prendre part à l'Assemblée Générale, les actionnaires sont tenus de remplir les conditions exigées par les sections 38, 39, 40, ainsi que par le paragraphe 3, additionnel au section 37 des Statuts.

Quant à ce qui concerne le dépôt des actions à la Caisse de la Société, les actionnaires peuvent déposer les actions tant au siége à Berlin, Charlottenstrasse, No. 35A, qu'à la Direction Générale à Bucarest, Caro Tirgoviste, où ils pourront aussi se faire délivrer la formule nécessaire aux procurations qu'ils auraient à donner.

(Le Conseil de Surveillance de la Société des Actionnaires des Chemins de Fer Roumains.)

Berlin, le 11 *Février*, 1880.

No. 282.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 23.)

(No. 35.) *Bucharest, February* 16, 1880.

My Lord,

IN accordance with your Lordship's instructions conveyed to me by your despatch No. 12 of the 10th instant, received by Messenger, Captain Player, and by a subsequent telegram dated at midnight and received this morning, I have made the necessary arrangements for the purpose of presenting on Friday next the 20th instant of the identical communication by which the three allied Powers have agreed to notify to this Government the recognition of Roumanian Independence.

MM. de Bacourt and von Rothenhan have received copies of this note from their respective Governments with exactly similar instructions.

These gentlemen not being, however, chiefs of missions but merely sent out to Bucharest provisionally to act as Consuls-General, can only assume the title of "Chargé d'Affaires" *ad interim*, and have no credentials to present.

My actual future colleagues are not here yet and it is uncertain when they will join their new posts; it would be most difficult for me to continue the affairs of this mission were I to persevere in keeping my credentials even after the 20th, that is why I propose, with your Lordship's leave, presenting them at the same time.

I beg leave further to suggest that now that I presume there is nothing in the way of my applying for an exequatur for Mr. Blunt to enable him to assume the duties of British Vice-Consul at Kustendje I should be authorized to do so after the 20th, and that he should be instructed to join his new post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 283.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 23.)

(No. 36. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, February* 16, 1880.

WITHIN the last few days several Bulgarians holding official positions in the Principality have been to see me, and I consider it may interest your Lordship to hear what I have gathered and the inferences I have drawn from their accounts of what is going on there.

The mass of the people appear thoroughly indifferent to the results of the elections; they record their votes not knowing why or for whom, and the proceedings on such occasions are accompanied by so many irregularities that they can hardly be taken "au sérieux."

The few educated persons can be divided into two classes: these are those who have received instruction at Robert College or from American Missionaries; these are most in advance of their countrymen, active, pushing, opposed to all attempts at domination by the clergy, and with ill-digested liberal notions of the American type; the others, brought up in Russia, are Panslavists, and with what are called opinions tending to Nihilism; but there exists this difference with the natives of the Russian Empire, members of that secret society, that they have nothing to destroy, and no autocracy or bureaucracy to hate yet.

The high officials called to power by Prince Alexander are all of them the devoted tools of Russia, and His Highness, though he employs frequently strong anti-Russian language, is in reality becoming more and more, it may be unwittingly, an instrument of the aggressive tendencies of that Power.

The two men who have acquired a dangerous influence in Bulgaria besides the Russian Consul and the Russian War Minister are MM. Grekov and Stoiloff: the first holds a Ministerial post, and has been the cause of much dissatisfaction during the last Ministerial crisis at Sophia; whilst the latter is Private Secretary to the Prince, and accompanies him on all his travels.

He is young and ambitious, and is likely to play an important part in the long run.

The Prince pays immense attention to his army, and the military budget consumes 560,000*l.* sterling out of a revenue of 880,000*l.* sterling for 16,000 men under arms; this is becoming, I am assured, a subject of very general dissatisfaction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 284.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 23.)

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 13, 1880.

REFERRING to Sir H. Layard's despatch No. 1173 of the 27th December last (copy of which was inclosed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 6 of the 30th ultimo), relative to the desertion of Turkish soldiers on the Greek frontier, I

inquired of M. Delyanni if he had received any report from the Greek Agents on the subject. He said that he had received no information of the passage of Turkish deserters into Greece, but he read to me a despatch he had received from the Greek Consul in Thessaly, in which he reports that large bodies of Turkish frontier soldiers, having received no pay for forty months, had revolted and set the Pasha at defiance, refusing to treat with him. The revolted troops had telegraphed direct to the Sultan to complain of their treatment and the destitution in which they were left while the regular army received their pay.

M. Delyanni said that these men were living at the expense of the Christian population and an idea might be formed of their deplorable condition in consequence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 285.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 23.)

(No. 36.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 13, 1880.

M. MESSINEZIS, Deputy for Ægium, and an independent opponent of the Government, gave notice, on the 5th instant, of his intention to question the Minister for Foreign Affairs as to the position of the frontier question. He said it was time that the country should know the whole truth, so that its future course might be regulated. He begged the Leaders of the different parties in the Chamber, after they had heard the Minister's answer, to proceed to a general discussion of the question, the most important of all, and examine it under all its aspects in connection with the obligations of the country as to the past, the condition of the country at the present moment and its resources, with the circumstances of the East, and the views of the European Powers in regard to the East. He said he was led to make this interpellation by the hope that from the discussion light might be thrown upon the financial question and the laws which the Government asked the Chamber to vote in connection with it. It was necessary to know why those at the head of affairs took such or such a course. The want of a decided policy had caused great damage to the country in times past. The state of affairs at this moment required more than ever a decided policy and rigorous measures.

The Chamber fixed upon yesterday for the consideration of M. Messinezis' question, and that gentleman formulated his demand in the sense above indicated.

Before M. Delyanni spoke in answer to M. Messinezis, M. Roufos, a friend of the Ministry, proposed to defer the examination of the question until the discussion on the Budget, which would come on in a few days, took place.

M. Messinezis, however, declared that he did not intend to discuss political questions, as the present moment was not opportune, and he merely requested the Minister for Foreign Affairs to give information to the Chamber on the very vital frontier question.

M. Delyanni, in his answer, spoke very much in the same terms he made use of in the debate on the answer to the King's Speech (as reported in my despatch No. 316 of the 29th December last). He said that the Government had followed closely the line of conduct prescribed by the 13th Protocol of the Treaty of Berlin. The Conferences at Prevesa having failed to bring about a solution of the frontier question, the Greek Government had applied to the Great Powers for their mediation, and the latter, as a first step, recommended the Government to send Commissioners to Constantinople, and as even then no result had been arrived at, the Powers are continuing their mediation, and he had "reason to conjecture," although he had no official communication on the subject, that the question is approaching a satisfactory solution.

M. Messinezis said he believed the question would never be solved, in consequence of the well-known policy of the Porte to interpose delays and discover pretexts for adjourning distasteful discussions. He thought, therefore, that the Chamber should cut the gordian-knot and take the necessary steps to vindicate the honour of Greece, which is engaged towards the inhabitants of Thessaly and Epirus, who are suffering terribly. This could only be done by cutting down all unnecessary expenditure in the Budget and strengthening the military resources of the country. He ended by saying that he would develop his ideas more fully when the discussion on the Budget took place.

The Chamber then passed on to the order of the day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 286.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 11.) *Belgrade, February 16, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Agrarian Bill, intended to regulate the respective position of the Turkish feudal proprietors of the tchifliks and their tenants, was yesterday passed by the Skupschtina. The debate, which lasted two days, was at first very heated owing to certain amendments, supposed to be additionally favourable to the Turkish proprietors having been introduced into the measure; but M. Ristich, having on more than one occasion reminded the Skupschtina that unless it was willing itself to do justice to these Turkish claimants, the Powers signatory of the Treaty of Berlin would take the matter into their own hands, the opposition gradually died out, and on the second day the Bill was carried. The general outlines of the scheme have been telegraphed to me by Mr. Vice-Consul Baker, and are briefly as follows:—

1. The former feudal Lord has the option of having the freehold and possession of his estate on condition of his allowing to each taxpayer on his property five "jocks" of land, for which the latter is to pay him 12, 10, or 6 fr., according to the quality of the soil, per morgenland, viz., 1,600 quadrate klafters.

2. The alternative offered is for the former proprietor to sell to the tenant farmers at a price equal to seven or eight years purchase, viz., seven years in those cases where the rent used to be paid in money, and eight years where the rent was discharged in kind. The purchaser is allowed a delay of five years during which to pay up the amount, giving meanwhile interest at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

The weak point in the scheme, and one which will probably lead to yet further discussion, is this last clause enabling the new proprietor to extend his payments over five years, a provision which will undoubtedly lead to much litigation on the part of the creditor to recover his due, and which will debar him from investing a sufficient capital in some productive concern.

I will, however, venture to remind your Lordship that the Servian Government is beset with difficulties in this question, as the State is scarcely able to advance a loan to the purchasers thus enabling them, by becoming debtors to the State, to discharge their obligations in full, and those who are as yet tenant farmers are not in a position to pay down any considerable sum.

I have further to add, for your Lordship's information, that Mr. Vice-Consul Baker has telegraphed to me that the first impression of the Turkish feudal proprietors has been in favour of the Bill which has just become law.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LOUIS E. GOULD.

No. 287.

Mr. West to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 36.) *Madrid, February 19, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 24 of the 2nd instant upon the subject of the reported intention of the Spanish Government to accredit a Minister to the Roumanian Government, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Señor Canovas del Castillo informed me yesterday that no step had as yet been taken in the matter.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. S. SACKVILLE WEST.

No. 288.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 87. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February 20, 1880.*

I HAVE been given confidentially copies, herewith inclosed, of two despatches dated respectively the 29th January and 18th February from Baron Haymerle to the Austrian Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, in answer to the proposal of the Russian Government respecting the ratification by the Cabinets of the completed portions of the work of the Bulgarian Frontier Commission.

His Excellency states that although he will not hesitate to join with the other Powers, if they agree to proceed immediately with the ratification of the Acts specified in the Russian note, he would have preferred that the fixing of the whole frontier should have been made the subject of one ratification instead of two.

The assurance of the Russian Government that they would accept the decision of the majority of the Cabinets justifies, he observes, his conviction that little time would have been lost by settling the whole question together.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 288.

Baron Haymerle to Baron Trauttenberg.

Vienne, le 29 Janvier, 1880.

LE Comte Kálnoky m'a transmis, il y a quelque temps, une note du Baron de Jomini proposant de confier à la Conférence des Ambassadeurs à Constantinople, de concert avec la Porte, le soin de revêtir les Actes de Délimitation élaborés par les différentes Commissions instituées en vertu du Traité de Berlin, de la sanction Européenne destinée à leur donner une valeur définitive.

Avant de me prononcer sur cette proposition, j'ai désiré connaître la manière de voir des autres Cabinets à son égard, et je me suis rencontré avec la plupart d'entre eux dans le désir de l'accueillir en principe tout en formulant quelques réserves sur son exécution.

Ainsi, il nous paraît nécessaire d'établir d'avance que la Conférence n'aura à s'occuper d'aucune autre tâche que de celle qui vient d'être désignée. Nous croyons aussi qu'avant d'être soumis à la sanction, les actes en question devraient être achevés définitivement. La délimitation de la Bulgarie devrait être complète avant que la Conférence appelée à sanctionner la démarcation des frontières de la Principauté se réunisse.

En dehors de ces observations nous n'avons aucune difficulté à accepter la proposition du Cabinet de St. Pétersburgh. J'étais sur le point d'en informer l'Ambassade Impériale et Royale, lorsque Edham Pacha est venu me communiquer une nouvelle proposition de la Porte, d'après laquelle la ratification des Actes de Délimitation pour la Serbie, la Bulgarie, et la Roumélie Orientale devrait avoir lieu sans plus de retard et être notifiée par une Note Circulaire dont les Ambassadeurs des sept Puissances laisseraient copie aux Gouvernements auprès desquels ils sont accrédités.

J'ai répondu à l'Ambassadeur de Turquie qu'à la suite d'une proposition antérieure de la Russie le Cabinet Impérial et Royal était déjà entré en pourparlers avec les autres Cabinets sur le procédé à suivre pour la ratification des Actes en question. Je ne me croyais donc plus entièrement libre d'accepter la proposition modifiée de la Porte. Cependant, si elle était agréée par les autres Cabinets, nous n'aurions pour notre part aucune difficulté à y adhérer également. Nous devrions toutefois maintenir la même réserve que nous avons formulée à l'égard de la proposition Russe, savoir, que tant que la frontière de la Dobroudja n'est pas fixée, la ratification ne saurait avoir lieu que relativement à la délimitation de la Serbie, et de la Roumélie Orientale, celle concernant la Bulgarie devant être ajournée jusqu'à ce que la délimitation de cette Principauté soit entièrement accomplie.

Je vous prie, M. le Baron, de vous exprimer dans ce sens envers le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg et de lui demander son avis sur la nouvelle proposition du Gouvernement Ottoman.

Recevez, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 288.

Baron Haymerle to Count Károlyi.

Vienne, le 18 *Février*, 1880.

MA dépêche en date du 29 Janvier était déjà partie lorsque le Rapport du Baron Trauttenberg est venu m'informer que le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg n'a pas de difficulté à se rallier à la dernière proposition de la Porte au sujet du procédé à suivre pour la ratification des Actes de Délimitation. Depuis, le Baron Trauttenberg m'a fait connaître, dans un Rapport ultérieur, les observations de M. Giers relativement à la réserve que nous avons faite concernant la délimitation de la Bulgarie.

Je conviens volontiers qu'il n'y a pas de difficulté pratique à procéder immédiatement à la ratification des Actes énumérés dans la Note Circulaire du Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg en date du $\frac{17}{29}$ Janvier dernier. Nous croyons toutefois qu'il serait préférable de réunir dans une seule ratification toutes les frontières de la Principauté de Bulgarie, au lieu d'en faire l'objet de deux ratifications successives. Selon nous, il n'en résulterait pas un retard trop prolongé, car nous partageons l'espoir que la seule question qui est en suspens—fraction de la frontière à l'est de Silistrie—puisse être résolue bientôt. Nous puisons cet espoir dans les dispositions conciliantes dont le Cabinet a fait preuve en déclarant de vouloir accepter, au sujet de cette question, la solution qui serait adoptée par la majorité des Cabinets.

Cependant, ne voulant pas faire de notre réserve une condition indispensable, nous n'hésiterons pas à nous associer aux Puissances si elles tombaient d'accord de procéder immédiatement à la ratification des Actes spécifiés dans la Note Circulaire du Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg.

Je prie votre Excellence de s'exprimer dans ce sens envers M. de Giers, et je saisis, &c.

No. 289.

Baron Haymerle to Count Hoyos.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Károlyi, February 23.)

Vienne, le 16 *Février*, 1880.

INTÉRESSÉS, ainsi que les autres Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, à l'application du principe contenu dans l'Article XLIV de ce Traité, nous n'avons pas cessé de vouer notre attention particulière aux efforts faits par le Gouvernement Roumain pour accomplir la tâche qui lui a été imposée, et nous avons examiné avec le plus vif intérêt la loi sur la Révision de l'Article 7 de la Constitution Roumaine votée par les Chambres de Bucarest, et portée par une Circulaire de M. Boerescu, en date du $\frac{1}{13}$ Octobre, 1879, à la connaissance des Puissances.

Nous admettons volontiers que cette loi, ainsi que les votes qui l'ont suivie et par lesquels un certain nombre d'Israélites a été assimilé aux citoyens Roumains, témoignent de la sérieuse intention du Gouvernement Princier de conformer la législation du pays au principe de l'égalité des droits et de la liberté des cultes, principe universellement reconnu et nouvellement consacré par le Traité de Berlin.

Guidés par une sincère sympathie pour la nation Roumaine nous sommes tout disposés à tenir compte des difficultés de nature sociale et politique qui s'opposeraient peut-être en ce moment encore à une application plus ample de ce principe.

Toutefois nous ne saurions méconnaître que, pour mieux répondre aux intentions qui ont guidé les Puissances au Congrès de Berlin, il est à désirer qu'une interprétation large et une administration libérale viennent compléter la loi sur la révision dans son application pratique.

En prenant acte des assurances formelles qui nous ont été données à cet égard, nous nous croyons fondés à espérer que le Gouvernement de Son Altesse Royale le Prince Charles de Roumanie, et les pouvoirs organiques du pays se trouveront d'accord pour assurer le développement du principe qui vient d'être introduit dans la Constitution, et qu'ils en poursuivront l'application pour arriver ainsi à l'assimilation plus complète des Israélites résidant dans le pays aux autres habitants de la Principauté, et pour les faire jouir, au point de vue du droit civil privé, d'une position juridique assurée.

Veuillez, M. le Comte, communiquer la présente dépêche à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et recevoir, &c.

No. 290.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 89. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February* 20, 1880.

THE Austro-Hungarian Minister at Bucharest has been instructed to communicate to the Roumanian Government a despatch upon the measures taken by them for carrying out the principle of religious liberty, laid down in the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

In this despatch it is stated that the Imperial Government willingly admit that the new law, and the subsequent admission of a certain number of Jews to the rights of citizenship, evince the serious intention of the Roumanian Government to assimilate the legislation of the country to the principle laid down in the Treaty, and animated by a sincere sympathy for the Roumanian people they recognize the difficulties which there may have been in the way of a more complete application of the principle at the present moment.

It is not however to be denied that in order more fully to satisfy the intentions that guided the Powers at Berlin, a liberal application and administration of the law are to be desired.

"Prenant acte" of the formal assurances that have been given on this subject the Imperial Government consider themselves entitled to hope that Prince Charles' Government and the organic authorities of the country will unite in assuring the development of the principle that has been introduced into the Constitution, till they arrive at the complete assimilation of the Jews residing in the Principality with its other inhabitants, so that they may enjoy an assured legal position as regards their civil rights.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 291.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.**

(No. 128. Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 23, 1880.

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's own information only, a copy of a communication which has been received from Captain Sale,† inclosing the particulars of a proposition made by the Porte to the Montenegrin Government in the course of last December for an exchange of territory on the Montenegrin-Albanian frontier.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 291*.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 82.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 23, 1880.

COUNT KÁROLYI having stated that he had been instructed by telegraph to inquire confidentially what were the precise terms in which Her Majesty's Government had agreed to the appointment of a Commission to examine and decide upon a frontier between Turkey and Greece which should agree generally with the line indicated at the Berlin Congress, a copy has been shown to him to-day of my despatch to Lord Lyons No. 62 of the 21st ultimo, copy of which has been furnished to your Excellency.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

* Similar despatches were addressed to Lord Lyons and Sir H. Elliot.

† No. 267.

No. 292.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 18. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Filibé, February* 22, 1880, 4·10 P.M.

THE appointment mentioned in my telegram No. 17 was cancelled yesterday.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 293.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) *Filibé, February* 23, 1880, 4 P.M.

GREEK Consul has written officially to the Governor-General, inclosing translations of two printed documents exhibited to him yesterday, and bearing signature of President and Secretary of the National Gymnastic Society.

One document calls for list of donations formerly made by the Bulgarians for construction of Greek Cathedral in this town; the other prohibits peasants from having dealings with Greeks, or from allowing the latter to enter villages. The penalties are excommunication, imprisonment, bastonade, and fines.

My colleague points out that either this is being done with the knowledge of Government, or the latter is unable to administer law with equality for all races.

Without deciding which is really the case, he asks the Governor-General whether he can assure him that persecution to which Turks and now the Greeks are being subjected will not reach Hellenic subjects also. In the latter case it will be his duty to advise them to take their own means of defence.

No. 294.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24.)

(No. 81.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, February* 24, 1880.

FOLLOWING received from Trotter, dated yesterday:—

"Distress increasing; 2,000 destitute people, mostly from country districts, are fed in town by charity. Hungry Kurdish villagers have plundered more than twenty rafts taking grain to Mosul, and in several villages grain stores have been forcibly opened. Government has taken precautionary measures to protect river traffic. Baker at Sert.

No. 295.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 67.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, February* 24, 1880.

COUNT MÜNSTER asked me, during a conversation which I had with him on the 21st instant, what was the state of the negotiations with respect to the Greek frontier between the French Government and ourselves. I said that he was no doubt aware that M. Waddington had, just before going out of office, proposed a totally new frontier, departing considerably from the recommendation of the Berlin Protocol, and that after M. Freycinet had been in office some little time, he had confirmed his predecessor's proposition. Her Majesty's Government had not been able to accept it, as in their view it was liable to several grave objections, and the mode of procedure seemed to them in itself open to exception. It was hardly in Paris or London that a new frontier across a little known country could be satisfactorily laid down. We had consequently proposed that the mediation should be exercised in the following manner:—That an International Commission, similar in every way to that which had demarcated Bulgaria, should be appointed by the Signatory Powers; that it should study the question of frontier upon the spot; that, without being bound to particular geographical data, it should take the Berlin

Protocol generally as its guide and base of action; and that its decisions should be taken by a majority of voices. Assuming it to act upon the general principle which animated the Plenipotentiaries at Berlin, we are perfectly ready to accept the decision of the majority, and to join in recommending the frontier so determined to the two disputant Powers.

Some conversation followed between us as to the course to be pursued in case either of the two Powers was disinclined to accept the result of the labours of the Commission. I said that we had never been blind to this difficulty; that it might well turn out that Greece would not obtain as the result of this negotiation an immediate increase in her territory. But I thought that the moral strength which would accrue to her from the support of all the six Powers, would sooner or later give the necessary weight to her demands. It was, of course, impossible to foresee the direction events would take. It might be that the mere difficulty of continuing to govern a territory assigned by the consent of Europe to another Power, would compel the Ottoman Government to yield speedily; or it might be that some still further patience would be required of Greece. I did not think, however, there could be any doubt that Greece would ultimately obtain whatever the proposed Commission should assign to her.

In the course of this conversation I expressed very distinctly to His Excellency, as I had done on previous occasions both to the French and the Greek Representatives, the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that any idea of solving this question by compulsion was inadmissible.

Count Münster entirely coincided in this view, observing that the naval and military action which in such a case must be taken by the six Powers, could not fail to precipitate results which it was the object of Europe to postpone.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 296.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 25.)

(No. 23.)
My Lord, *Sophia, February* 8, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 18 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of the note addressed to me by M. Natchovitz in reply to mine of the 16th January, on the subject of the return of the Mussulman refugees, copy of which was inclosed in my No. 10 of the 19th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure in No. 296.

M. Natchovitz to Mr. Ashburnham.

M. le Gérant, *Sophia, le* 23 Janvier / 3 Février, 1880.

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de votre office du 16 Janvier, dans lequel vous m'informez que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Angleterre partage les vues du Cabinet Austro-Hongrois en ce qui concerne les réfugiés Musulmans.

Je suis heureux de pouvoir constater que le Gouvernement de la Grande Bretagne non moins que celui de l'Autriche-Hongrie, trouve fondés les motifs qui ont forcé le Gouvernement de Son Altesse de fermer provisoirement la frontière aux réfugiés que l'on renvoyait en Bulgarie dans des circonstances aussi peu favorables.

Ne nous ayant jamais écarté de la ligne de conduite que le Gouvernement Bulgare a toujours suivie, nous avons accepté avec empressement la proposition du Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois de nommer un Commissaire qui, de concert avec celui qui sera nommé par la Sublime Porte, veillera au rapatriement des réfugiés en question, et j'ai déjà écrit à notre Agent à Constantinople d'entrer en pourparlers à ce sujet avec le Gouvernement Ottoman. Je l'ai en outre informé que le Gouvernement de Son Altesse désire que les réfugiés ne commencent à revenir en Bulgarie que lorsque la température leur permettra de voyager sans danger, c'est-à-dire vers le mois de Mars, et qu'en outre, chaque famille doit prouver qu'elle possède des ressources au moins pour un mois. Ces précautions

étant prises uniquement en faveur de ces malheureux, je ne doute aucunement qu'elles seront approuvées par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Angleterre.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) G. D. NATCHOVITZ.

No. 297.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 24.)
My Lord, *Sophia, February* 8, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a note to M. Natchovitch on the subject of the legalisation of Mussulman title-deeds which I have been compelled to address to his Excellency, as I have discovered that nothing has been done, in spite of the verbal assurances given me by Mr. Grecow, not only that he had peremptorily ordered the Mixed Commission to desist from their illegal pretensions, but that in the event of his orders being disobeyed, the persons in fault would be called to account.

Count Kehvenhüller has been instructed by his Government to support me in my demand, and he has promised that, in the event of my note not producing the desired effect, he will address one in similar language to the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure in No. 297.

Mr. Ashburnham to M. Natchovitz.

M. le Ministre, *Sophia, February* 6, 1880.

J'AI déjà eu l'honneur d'entretenir votre collègue, M. Grécow, verbalement et par écrit au sujet des certificats (Chadet Namés) que la Commission Mixte s'est arrogé le droit d'exiger depuis quelque temps, pour les titres Musulmans présentés devant elle.

Je n'ai pas besoin ici d'entrer dans des détails pour prouver que cette demande de la Commission n'est fondé sur aucun droit, surtout lorsqu'il s'agit de titres originaux; M. Grécow, avec l'esprit de droiture et de justice qui le distinguent, s'en est convenu lui-même, et il m'a dit qu'il avait donné des ordres péremptoires pour que la Commission cesse d'exiger les certificats des Tchorbadjis Bulgares, et que si ses ordres n'étaient pas exécutés, les fautifs seraient appelés à rendre compte de leur conduite.

Malgré la bonne volonté de son Excellence, les choses restent comme dans le passé. J'apprends que ces jours-ci Suleiman Effendi et Mehemet Riza s'étant présentés devant la Commission avec de vieux titres on leur exigeait le certificat.

Comme je suis chargé par mon Gouvernement de protester officiellement contre ce qui constitue une infraction du Traité de Berlin, qui assure à tous les sujets de Son Altesse le Prince la libre possession de leurs biens, quelle que soit leur religion ou leur race, je viens prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien se mettre en rapport avec son collègue de l'intérieur afin de savoir et de me communiquer par écrit quels sont les mesures que son Excellence jugerait à propos d'adopter pour assurer l'exécution de ses ordres.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 298.

Mr. Ashburnham to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 25.)
My Lord, *Sophia, February* 8, 1880.

IN my despatch No. 12 of the 19th instant I had the honour to inform your Lordship that orders had been given by the Minister of the Interior for the annulling of the sale and lease of certain Mussulman property in Sophia, of which Mr. Falanga, a British subject, is the representative.

Since that date Mr. Falanga has been sent backwards and forwards from one bureau to another, without being even able to ascertain under what pretext the property is still

retained, till at last he was informed at the Ministry of the Interior that his affair was in the hands of the Civil Governor of Sophia, M. Daskelov.

Having succeeded, after much delay, in having an interview with this functionary, Mr. Falanga was informed that no orders whatever had been received relative to his case.

Under these circumstances, I deemed it my duty to address to M. Natchovitz a note, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, requesting his Excellency to furnish me, without delay, with some explanation of the delay in obeying the orders alleged to have been given by M. Grecow.

Your Lordship may judge from this example how little chance those Mussulman proprietors whose affairs are not in the hands of foreigners able to appeal to their Representatives for protection have of obtaining justice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ASHBURNHAM.

Inclosure in No. 298.

Mr. Ashburnham to M. Natchovitz.

M. le Ministre, *Sophia, le* 6 *Février*, 1880.

VOTRE Excellence sans doute se rappellera que j'ai eu l'honneur de l'entretenir de l'affaire de certaines propriétés appartenant à Moustafa Bey, sises à Sophia, qui ont été saisies et en partie vendues et louées par la Municipalité, et dont le représentant est M. Falanga, sujet Anglais.

Votre honorable collègue, M. Grecow, ayant pris des renseignements sur cette affaire, m'a dit ainsi qu'à M. Falanga, que les actes de la Municipalité n'ayant pas pu être justifiés par elle, devraient être considérés comme illégaux et qu'il donnerait l'ordre pour que ces ventes et ces confiscations fussent annulées.

Sur ces faits M. Falanga s'est présenté devant la Commission Mixte qui lui a délivré un document le reconnaissant propriétaire de ce qu'il devait exhiber à la Municipalité. Après avoir subi plusieurs retards à cause de l'absence ou l'indisposition du Chef de la Municipalité, M. Falanga a parlé de nouveau à M. Grecow, et il a appris par le Chef de Section des bureaux de son Excellence que cette affaire se trouve entre les mains du Gouverneur de la ville, M. Dasculoff, qui cependant à répondu, en étant interrogé, qu'il n'a reçu aucun avis à ce sujet du Ministère de l'Intérieur.

M. Falanga se trouve maintenant à Sophia depuis plus de deux mois, pendant lesquels on le fait courir de bureau à bureau sans même lui faire apprendre la raison pour laquelle la Municipalité retient ses propriétés.

En vue de la justice de cette réclamation, qui est pleinement reconnu par M. Grecow, et des graves préjudices que son séjour prolongé à Sophia porte aux affaires délaissées à Constantinople de M. Falanga, je suis forcé de m'adresser à votre Excellence en la priant de m'expliquer dans le plus bref délai possible la cause de ce retard, qui ne s'accorde aux ordres donnés par son Excellence le Ministre de l'Intérieur, et de prendre les mesures qu'elle jugerait convenables pour assurer la solution de cette affaire; car si je ne réussis pas à obtenir justice pour mon sujet, dont les intérêts sont si gravement liés, je serai obligé de référer la question à mon Gouvernement qu'il s'avise aux mesures à prendre.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) J. ASHBURNHAM.

No. 299.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 27. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Scutari, February* 11, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 16, Political, of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to report that I have been informed that the Montenegrin Government has recently acquired from the Austrian Government 4,000,000 of rim-fire cartridges for Kranka rifles, the weapon with which the Montenegrins are principally armed, and also that a battery of field artillery has been obtained from the same source.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 300.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 28. Political.)
Scutari, February 12, 1880.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH I have not yet been made acquainted with the Montenegrin conditions on which an exchange for the district of Gusinjé-Plava would be accepted, I venture to express to your Lordship the belief that the proposal of the Porte to accord a line from the River Zem to the crest of the mountains to the east, to be drawn from thence to the Gulf of Castrati on the Lake of Scutari, is one presenting as many objections and difficulties as the cession of Gusinjé itself.

I will not attempt to give your Lordship a topographical description of the territory comprised by the proposed line, as Captain Sale is not only thoroughly acquainted with it, but can also supply your Lordship with a valuable professional opinion on the military importance of the positions which the Porte is prepared to allow to Montenegro. I, however, can state, from my experience of the manner in which the opposition to the cession of Gusinjé has been managed, that the same tactics, and with equal success, can be repeated in the districts now affected; and, even if the Turkish Government should really be desirous of carrying out the cession, it is possible that the Albanians may object to it, especially if they perceive that some of the Great Powers view it with disfavour, and that the Roman Catholic Clergy is opposed to it.

The three important Christian tribes of Hotu, Clemente, and Castrati will be all more or less encroached upon, and if they accept the Montenegrin rule they will in no case be able to give up their autumnal migration to the sea coast, extending from Duleigno to Durazzo, in search of pasturage for their herds and flocks; and endless disputes and difficulties will inevitably arise through the double nationalties thus established.

Probably one of the first conditions that would be insisted upon by Prince Nicholas would be that he should be put formally in possession of the districts fixed upon, and, as the Ottoman authorities have never exercised but a nominal sway in the Roman Catholic mountains, the Turkish Government would immediately have to face the necessity of enforcing its sovereign rights over the three clans already mentioned, and would, therefore, have either to reassert its inability to use violence against subjects objecting to pass from Ottoman jurisdiction, or publish its readiness to coerce all but those who are Mahommedans.

But to avoid troubling your Lordship with long considerations and arguments, I need only add that, in my opinion, the proposed exchange merely shifts all the difficulties of a cession of territory from Gusinjé-Plava nearer to Scutari; and that, therefore, I cannot avoid feeling that the Porte is but seeking new pretexts for deferring the evil hour.

And, in the face of the facts that the suggested exchange has an Italian instead of an Austrian origin, and that the line of frontier now offered is the same as the one strenuously advocated by Russia at Berlin, and firmly opposed by Austria, it is difficult to look forward for a satisfactory solution of the question without a return to requiring a strict interpretation and execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 301.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 85.)
(Telegraphic.)
Pera, February 24, 1880, 7·30 P.M.

THE Sultan has issued Iradé authorizing the proposal of a line of frontier to Greek Commissioners, which excludes the Gulfs of Volo and Arta and Mezzovo, and does not differ very greatly from the line proposed by Turkish Commissioners at Prevesa, but runs to the north of Peneus. It has been communicated officially to Greek Minister, who has referred it to his Government, but considers it entirely unacceptable.

(Sent to Athens.)

No. 302.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 86.)
(Telegraphic.)
Pera, February 24, 1880, 9 P.M.

A GREEK naturalized British subject, named John Papadopoulo, has been arrested on suspicion of being engaged in a conspiracy against the Sultan, and explosive shells in dynamite have been found in his house; his supposed accomplices have also been arrested. The Sultan has requested me to send a Dragoman to assist at the examination of the prisoner. The evidence appears to be very compromising as regards him, but he may have been drawn into a sham plot to frighten the Sultan. Dragoman Alischan is watching the case.

No. 303.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 25.)

(No. 21. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Filibé, February 24, 1880, 10·40 P.M.

THE Governor-General and Council having treated as incredible and ridiculous facts stated by the Greek Consul, the Director of Finance produced the original printed proof of the Circular referred to in my telegram No. 19, and which is now in my possession. His Excellency having left Council without resolving to arrest the Secretary of Committee and printer, the Director of Finance has written to ask what decision he has taken, hinting that he will resign [group wrong; ? if] arrest and search are not made.

Unless the Porte is induced to compel the Governor-General and Secretary-General to do their duty under penalty of trial for treason, nothing will be done, the Director of Finance will resign, and affairs must be allowed to take their course in this province.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 304.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major-General Biddulph.

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic)
Foreign Office, February 25, 1880, 1·15 P.M.

PREVENT any payments to Turkish Government till further notice.

No. 305.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 130.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, February 25, 1880.

HER Majesty's Government have learned with much satisfaction from your Excellency's despatch No. 187 of the 10th instant, that in consequence of the representations you had made on the subject, the Porte had consented to remodel the composition of the Local Commission at Salonica which had been named to examine and report upon the Organic Statute of the Province of Roumelia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 306.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 131.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, February 25, 1880.

THE accounts furnished by Mr. Consul-General Blunt of the present condition of Thessaly and Macedonia merit the most serious attention of the Porte, and I have to state

to your Excellency that the intimation conveyed in your despatches Nos. 173 and 177 of the 7th and 8th, that you had caused a representation to be made to the Porte regarding the state of affairs in those provinces, meets with the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 307.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 132.)
Foreign Office, February 25, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE to convey to your Excellency the approval of Her Majesty's Government of your proceedings, as reported in your despatch No. 169 of the 7th instant, in order to induce the Porte to take some steps to avert the famine which threatens the Island of Rhodes from a failure of the crops in recent seasons.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 308.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 26.)

(No. 155.)
Paris, February 25, 1880.

My Lord,

THIS afternoon, in pursuance of the permission given me by your Lordship's despatch No. 171 of the 21st instant, I placed unofficially in M. de Freycinet's hand a copy of your Lordship's despatch to me No. 150 of the 17th instant, respecting his Excellency's interpretation of the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for the settlement of the Turco-Greek frontier question. I explained to M. de Freycinet that this was the despatch, stating fully the views of Her Majesty's Government, which your Lordship had addressed to me simultaneously with the telegram on which my verbal communication to him of the 18th instant was founded.

M. de Freycinet adverted to the copy he had sent me, on the 20th instant, of an instruction which he had addressed to the French Ambassador on the subject of the verbal communication to which I had referred.

He said that he was very anxious for an answer to the observations which the French Ambassador was instructed in that despatch to make to your Lordship; and he begged me to suggest to your Lordship that time might be saved if you sent the answer through me, without waiting for a formal conference with the Ambassador.

He added that he was much pressed by other Powers, and that he should be very glad to be enabled, as soon as possible, to state to them positively that the accord between England and France was complete.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 309.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, February 26.)

(Télégraphique.)
Constantinople, le 24 *Février*, 1880.

NOUS remercions les Puissances des conseils et des recommandations qu'elles ont fait parvenir à Sophia en faveur des réfugiés Musulmans. Malheureusement cette démarche n'a pas produit tout l'effet qu'on était en droit d'en attendre, puisque rien n'a été fait pour ces malheureux qui ont succombé en grande partie à la faim et surtout au froid. Aujourd'hui la Principauté nous propose de nous entendre avec elle sur le *modus faciendi* qui sera adopté pour le rapatriement et l'installation des émigrés. Nous ne nous refusons pas à entrer en pourparlers à ce sujet avec le Gouvernement Princier; mais l'expérience du passé nous porte à croire qu'il posera des conditions d'une application difficile, sinon impossible, et pendant ce temps, la situation des réfugiés s'aggravera fatalement. Il devient donc

No. 307*.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 134.)
Foreign Office, February 25, 1880.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency, for any observations you may have to make thereon, the accompanying copy of a letter from the Armenian Archbishop of Aintab,* requesting that Her Majesty's Government will use their good offices to obtain from the Porte a Firman recognizing him as an Archbishop of the Reformed Armenian Church in communion with the Church of England, and permitting his people to be classed and taxed as a Reformed Episcopal community.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* No. 208*.

urgent de prendre des mesures à l'égard des réfugiés qui se trouvent sur la frontière, sans subordonner leur entrée à l'accord proposé, et qui ne devrait viser que les émigrés qui ne se sont pas encore mis en route. Je vous prie de vous exprimer dans ce sens auprès du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, dès que vous verrez son Excellence.

No. 310.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Pasha, February* 26.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 25 *Février*, 1880.

J'AI adressé aujourd'hui à M. Condouriotis des Mémoires relatifs à la délimitation des frontières entre les deux pays : l'un destiné à répondre au Mémoire déposé par les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes dans la séance du 17 Novembre, et l'autre qui répond aux critiques dirigées par eux contre la ligne indiquée dans notre dernière séance comme étant la véritable ligne de Berlin. Dans ce même Mémoire, et comme conclusion propre à donner aux voeux exprimés par les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans, nous indiquons les bases d'une ligne générale sur laquelle nous appelons la discussion. Cette proposition consisterait à infléchir les deux extrémités de la ligne de Berlin, telle que nous l'avons indiquée précédemment, de façon à les faire aboutir vers le point de Thèbes du côté de Volo, et vers Enino du côté du Golfe Ambracique. Quant au reste de la ligne, nous la discuterons avec les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, en prenant, autant que possible, leurs voeux en considération. En préparant ainsi le terrain pour une discussion utile et pratique, nous exprimons l'espoir d'arriver à une entente sur des bases . . . . . le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, vous voudrez bien lui faire remarquer qu'il n'a pas été possible d'abréger la durée des délibérations du Gouvernement Impérial dont la longueur est suffisamment justifiée par l'importance exceptionnelle de son objet.

No. 311.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 26, 3 P.M.)

(No. 22.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, February* 26, 1880, 8 A.M.

CORRECT abstract of Circular issued by Secretary, with printer's name :—

Firstly, orders village Council to obtain evidence of Bulgarian contributions towards construction of Greek cathedral at Filibé alleged to have been appropriated. This is not church seized at Christmas.

Secondly, orders priest on first holiday or Sunday to exhort people leaving church to take oath they will not buy or sell to Grecophiles. Should any of latter or Greek Commission Agent appear in village, must be told quietly to leave. Goods to be bought in town from all nationalities except Greeks, their only enemies. Latter feed and fatten and fill their coffers with sweat of Bulgarian brow and dig Bulgarian graves. Greek farms to be avoided like accursed places; their lands not to be tilled. The enemies' mills and shops not to be frequented, but ruined. If any Bulgarian houses a Grecophile, or buys and sells to a Greek, he shall be pursued and fined for benefit of village school. Grecophiles become weapons of enemies who divided fatherland into five parts. They spread darkest calumnies respecting Bulgarian nation to bring back Turkish authority. That low class must be made to understand this cannot be. Society convinced instructions will be faithfully executed.

(Sent so Pera.)

No. 312.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 26, 2 P.M.)

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) *Filibé, February* 26, 1880, 8 A.M.

ACCORDING to official reports, armed Turkish bands numbering 3,000 entering Kyrdjali district from Adrianople vilayet. Brigade of gendarmes been attacked, one gendarme wounded. Two battalions militia placed at disposal of

Haskeui Prefect. Chief of Staff now at Haskeui reports that Turkish Kaïmakam of Kyrdjali states insurgents [?] 1,000 Martini rifles. Both of opinion movement can be arrested without bloodshed if Ottoman Government sends troops along frontier. Population Kyrdjali unwilling to take part in movement. Considerable number have fled to Haskeui, insurgents having tried to force them to join. I trust Ottoman Government will act immediately.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 313.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 190.) *Foreign Office, February* 26, 1880.

My Lord,

IN order to avoid the danger of unnecessarily protracting the negotiations on the question of the Greek frontier, it may perhaps be well that I should submit briefly, for the consideration of the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, the exact language in which I should propose to acquaint Her Majesty's Representatives abroad with the course which Her Majesty's Government are willing to pursue. I should describe in the following terms the arrangement to which Her Majesty's Government are willing to consent:—

"The Turkish and Greek Governments having failed, apparently, to come to the agreement contemplated by the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, Her Majesty's Government are willing, in concert with other Powers, to offer their mediation in order to facilitate negotiations.

"For the purpose of determining the precise frontier which the Powers should recommend, they propose the following arrangement: A Boundary Commission, composed of Commissioners nominated by the Signatory Powers, shall study and determine on the spot the line best suited to form a new frontier between the two countries. They shall take for the basis of their deliberations the 13th Protocol of the Treaty of Berlin, and, without being bound by the general geographical indications given therein, they shall loyally act in the spirit and conform themselves to the policy described by the Plenipotentiaries at that sitting of the Congress. They shall decide by a majority of votes upon the precise frontier best fitted to carry that policy into effect, and Her Majesty's Government will join in recommending to the disputant Powers the frontier which the Commission shall in this manner determine."

The further question whether Turkey shall be admitted as one of the Signatory Powers, or shall be excluded as one of the disputant Powers, is a point upon which I do not desire to express a final opinion. My belief is that the ultimate solution of this question would be much facilitated by associating a Turkish Representative with the Commission; and as the operation to be conducted is one in which Turkey will, materially speaking, give everything and receive nothing, there appear to be equitable grounds for arranging that the opinion of Turkey shall be heard in determining the amount which is to be surrendered.

I shall be obliged if your Excellency will communicate this despatch to M. de Freycinet, and inform him that if it meets with his concurrence I will telegraph the proposition which I have recited above to Her Majesty's Representatives abroad at the various Courts.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 314.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 20. Political.) *Salonica, February* 18, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, accompanied with copies of its inclosures, relative to the situation of affairs in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 314.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, February* 14, 1880.

THIS afternoon I sent to your Excellency a telegram worded as follows:—

"The Governor-General received yesterday evening telegrams from Serres and Monastir, stating that armed bands have begun to cross over into Macedonia from Kustendil in Bulgaria. The Porte should not neglect to send more troops to this province, above all, an energetic and experienced Commander.

"It is rumoured that Safvet Pasha will be sent to Cossova, and that Shefket Pasha, from Thessaly, will take his place as Commander-in-chief here."

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 314.

Colonel Synge to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir, *Salonica, February* 14, 1880.

HAVING recently visited the districts of Djuma, Razlog, &c., I have the honour to forward, for your information, the following remarks on the state of affairs there:—

The great drought of 1879 caused a very short harvest, and the Djuma portion of the country was handed over to the Turks too late to allow of any sowing.

The Turkish villages were all destroyed and their inhabitants' means exhausted during their long absence. The greatest distress and want, therefore, prevail amongst them. In the town of Djuma things are little better. At the time of the arrival of the Frontier Commission there, the town was occupied by 200 Bulgarian infantry, 100 cavalry, and 4 guns, under the command of a Russian Major. The inhabitants had collected their property and retired into Bulgaria, only some thirty men remaining, who, with the troops, spread paraffin on the buildings and set fire to them, completely destroying the bazaar and the Turkish quarter.

It is stated that twelve horse-loads of paraffin were brought for the purpose. Three hundred Turkish houses were burned, and about as many shops. The retiring Bulgarians also forced their compatriots in the surrounding villages to accompany them, and although most have returned, some 1,500 men, women, and children are still absent from the district of Djuma; of these, 1,000 will probably return shortly. Bands of "Committee" robbers range the country, and murders of Mussulmans are frequent. In my letter of the 8th instant I have furnished some of the most recent cases.

The only military force is one battalion stationed at Djuma and one at Razlog.

These "Committee" robbers ordinarily confine their outrages to Turks and Greeks, but I learned that at the time of the insurrection in Razlog, during the flight of the Bulgarian inhabitants from Bansko, the brigands fired over their heads, with a view to making them throw down any valuables they might have. One, who was amongst the fugitives, stated that he saw three small children thus abandoned in the snow.

During the occupation of Bansko by the insurgents they murdered one of the small Protestant community there.

At Melnik, principally inhabited by Greeks, I found the people in much dread of the approaching spring. The position of the district is such, that by the occupation of the passes of the Strymon at Kreshna and Demir-Hissar by the insurgents, the whole would be at their mercy.

Under the existing state of affairs, trade is dead; the Khans along the road are ruined and deserted; proprietors of transport horses are unable to feed them, and they are allowed to become so weak as to be unable to work.

It is the general opinion that the grain in the up-country districts will not suffice until next harvest, and the commercial element is quite unable to meet the emergency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HY. SYNGE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 314.

Letter from Monastir.

Monastir, le 12 Février, 1880.

(Extrait.)

LA population de Dibra en Albanie refuse d'accepter le nouveau Règlement concernant les Tribunaux. Elle s'oppose surtout à l'installation du nouveau Procureur-Général; et d'après ce qu'on dit elle a l'intention de demander à se gouverner elle-même sans l'ingérence de l'Administration Ottomane.

D'après les toutes dernières nouvelles parvenues ici de Prisrend il paraît que les Chefs des Albanais de ce district ont promis à Moukhtar Pacha de ne pas s'opposer dans l'affaire Gousinjé; ceux de Jakova et Ipek pourtant sont toujours très-surexcités, et persistent dans leurs intentions hostiles contre le Monténégro; leur appel, en attendant, aux Albanais de Dibra de se joindre à eux dans cette malheureuse affaire, n'a pas obtenu grand succès jusqu'ici.

Les nouveaux agents de la justice, tel que Inspecteur des Tribunaux, Procureur-Général, &c., n'ont rien accomplis encore; et il paraît que ces fonctionnaires ont été nommés pour faire rien autre que jouir de leurs gros appointements.

Ce qui est très-désolant c'est que le brigandage de nouveau a commencé a troubler le pays; et on craint beaucoup que le mal augmentera au printemps; les Turcs surtout croient que les "Comitadjis" Bulgares infesteront de nouveau le pays. Le chemin d'ici à Goritza est actuellement très-dangereux, plusieurs vols à main armée ayant eu lieu.

Un nouveau Vice-Consul Russe est arrivé ici le mois passé; et on remarque que ce monsieur, qui est marié à une dame Roumaine, est très-assidu auprès des familles Vallachs de la ville.

No. 315.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 27.)

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.)

Filibé, February 26, 1880, 11 P.M.

AT meeting of Consular Corps, convoked by me on demand of Greek Consul, latter submitted his letter to Governor-General, inclosing translation of Gymnastic Society Circular mentioned in telegram No. 19, and produced original printed documents. Consuls took cognizance of authenticity of latter, unanimously expressed reprobation of intended ostracism, but advised colleague to await a little longer answer from Governor, to which he is clearly entitled in interest of alarmed Hellenic subjects.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 316.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 27.)

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.)

Filibé, February 26, 1880.

AT a meeting of the Council yesterday, Governor-General read letter from the Director of Finance referred to in my telegram No. 21.

After a long debate, in which the Governor-General was asked whether he had made [? a Convention] with the Director of Finance, and whether latter was the real Secret Society and printer of Circular in the hands of "Procureur-Général." The Governor-General is to write to Finance Director, who does not attend business on the plea of illness.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 317.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 27.)

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.)

Filibé, February 26, 1880, 11·30 P.M.

REFERENCE telegram No. 23. Réouf Pasha has sent troops. No further news.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 318.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 27.)

(No. 27.?)
(Telegraphic.)

Filibé, February 26, 1880, 11·40 P.M.

CIRCULAR not yet published has been dispatched to Prefects ordering them to proclaim that the Gymnastic Societies have been entirely abolished, and can no longer exist under any other designation as a Society or Committee; that the former members will be drawn into reserve of militia, placed under military authorities, and governed and exercised by appointed officers; that it is strictly prohibited that any one should call or sign himself President, &c., of unauthorized Societies or Committees; and that imposition and collections of money for such Societies, Committees, or any other unauthorized object is strictly prohibited.

It is accompanied by another Circular ordering funds of Gymnastic Societies to be sequestered.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 319.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 27, 4 P.M.)

(No. 88.)
(Telegraphic.)

Pera, February 27, 1880, 11·30 A.M.

FOLLOWING from Michell, dated 26th:—

"Refugees can only be fed for five days next week, after which all rations must be supplied. In third week must stop, unless funds are subscribed. Please communicate this to Lady Burdett Coutts."

No. 320.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Michell.

(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, February 27, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

YOURS No. 24.

Your proceedings are approved.

No. 321.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)

Foreign Office, February 27, 1880, 5 P.M.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 21 as to negotiations between Austria and Montenegro, Sir H. Elliot is assured by Baron Calice that they only have reference to maritime and sanitary police of Antivari, and the arrangements for the navigation of that port mentioned in Article XXIX of Treaty of Berlin. On other grounds Sir H. Elliot much doubts the probability of any agreement for the temporary occupation of Scutari by Montenegro.

No. 322.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Michell.

(No. 14.) *Foreign Office, February* 27, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your telegram No. 24 of yesterday's date, reporting that you had convoked a meeting of the Consular corps at the request of the Greek Consul, to consider the circular issued by the National Gymnastic Society, of which an account is given in your previous telegram No. 19 of the 23rd instant, tending to prohibit intercourse between the Bulgarian and Greek population of Eastern Roumelia. I understand that you have joined with your colleagues in recommending the Greek Consul to await for a short time longer the answer which he has a right to expect to the representations made by him to the Governor-General upon the subject.

Your proceedings in this matter seem to have been judicious, and I have signified to you my approval by telegraph.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 323.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 193.) *Constantinople, February* 12, 1880.

My Lord,

MR. CONSUL-GENERAL BLUNT has forwarded to me a copy of his despatch No. 13 to your Lordship. I have already reported to your Lordship in previous despatches the steps I have taken at the Porte with regard to the case of the Eleshnitza prisoners, and I had the honour to state that I have also called the attention of the Turkish Government to the desirability of instituting a Commercial Tribunal at Cavalla.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 324.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 200.) *Constantinople, February* 13, 1880.

My Lord,

I BEG to inclose an interesting Report on the condition of the Turkish population in the neighbourhood of Rustchuk which I have received from Mr. Dillon, an English gentleman connected with the railway between that place and Varna, and well acquainted with that part of Bulgaria, who has been good enough to superintend the distribution of some funds which I had placed in his hands for the relief of the Mussulman refugees.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 324.

Mr. Dillon to Sir A. H. Layard.

Rustchuk, February 10, 1880.

Excellency,

I BEG permission to submit to your Excellency the following Report on my last journey to the villages devastated during the late war. Immediately on receiving your Excellency's telegram of the 15th January last, I drew on the Ottoman Bank at three days for 100*l.*, and at once commenced purchasing maize. I was unable to get away before the 29th January, owing to the intense frost, which obliged us to engage men during the nights to keep the mill-stream free of ice, and on account of this the conversion of our maize into flour proceeded only slowly:—

Dol Monastir.—Leaving Rustchuk, on the morning of the 29th January, we arrived at this village the same evening, and relieved exactly 100 villagers out of a total of 120.

Brestovec.—The following morning, the 30th January, we relieved 170 villagers out of a total of 219.

Belcova.—On the 31st January we relieved 190 villagers out of a total of 257.

Botroff.—The same day, the 31st January, we relieved the whole of these villagers, numbering 195.

Gülbunar.—On the 1st February we relieved 221 persons out of a total of 603.

Beshbounar.—On the 2nd February we relieved 230 of 251 villagers.

Balabanlar.—On the same day, the 2nd February, we relieved 190 out of a total of 440 villagers.

Gor Monastir.—On the 3rd February we relieved 156 villagers out of a total number of 273.

Batinza.—On the 4th January we relieved 465 villagers out of a total of 488.

Ostrica.—On the 5th February we relieved 277 out of a total of 605 villagers.

Tchernevi.—On the 6th February we relieved 118 out of a total of 206 villagers, and leaving for Rustchuk arrived on the evening of the 7th, after an absence of ten days.

I trust the following Tabular statement will be of interest to your Excellency:—

Name of Village.	Number of Houses.				Number of Inhabitants.		Number of Fruit Trees.		Number of Cattle.	
	Before War.	After War.	Found Habitable.	Rebuilt.	Before War.	After War.	Before War.	After War.	Before War.	After War
Dol Monastir ..	45	20	8	12	100	120	300	..	No information.	
Brestovic ..	35	32	23	9	293	219	250	..	Ditto.	
Belcova	46	30	23	7	297	257	3,000	..	Ditto.	
Botroff	55	40	..	40	300	195	2,000	..	Ditto.	
Gülbunar ..	100	80	45	35	640	503	20,000	..	Ditto.	
Beshbounar ..	47	41	..	41	295	251	20,000	..	Ditto.	
Balabanlar ..	84	81	12	69	518	440	20,000	..	300	60
Gor Monastir ..	63	55	4	51	313	273	20,000	..	1,250	100
Batinza	115	84	44	40	670	488	250	..	719	141
Ostrica	140	117	..	117	810	605	200	150	1,010	178
Tchernevi ..	60	45	23	22	229	206	150	120	335	84
Totals ..	780	625	182	443	4,564	3,657	80,150	270	3,624	503

An examination of this Tabular statement shows a complete disappearance of 155 householders from a total of 780 (780 − 625 = 155), and further, that out of a total number of 780 houses standing before the war only 182 were found undestroyed on the return of the refugees, and these were in a more or less ruined state. The villages visited by me being in the mountainous districts, the houses were mostly built of stone, the foundation walls were, on an average, 2ft. 6 in. thick, and appears to have covered a space each of about 30 ft. by 16 ft. Their reconstruction would necessitate the purchase of large timbers and the employment of native masons, but the money is wanting and the villagers have run up small underground habitations alongside their old homesteads.

We have also a disappearance of 907 out of a total of 4,564 souls formerly inhabiting 11 villages (4,564 − 3,657 = 907).

We have further a destruction of 85,880 fruit trees (walnut, plum, peach, apricot, cherry, apple, and pear).

And of 5 villages formerly possessing 3,624 heads of cattle (cows, horses, oxen, and buffaloes), goats and sheep not taken into account, we find a present deficiency of 3,061.

It is unnecessary for me to enlarge on these figures. They work out their own case: of the 563 cattle now existing, 479 have been purchased since the return of the refugees, and therefore the real loss was (3,061 + 479 = 3,540), and if more have not been bought wherewith to till the land the reason is that the necessary funds are wanting.

General Observations.—Botroff, Beshbounar, and Ostrica presented a lamentable appearance, having been completely destroyed, and a great many of the other villages nearly so, and one cannot help suspecting some deep design in destroying the fruit trees. Homesteads and cattle can at some future time be replaced, but none of the present living inhabitants of this country will ever see the fruit gardens in their former condition. After the army crossed the Yantra there was no fighting for some little time, and those villages were set upon by a Russian Legion advancing without any opposition, and irritated by none of the difficulties of war. At Brestovic, Prince Alexander of Battenberg resided for some time, and this saved the village from destruction. The other villages owe the few

houses remaining to the fact of their being required for housing troops. The village of Botroff was fired by a fanatical priest residing as Tchaouch Bunar. The villagers of Beshbounar were caught in their flight by the Russians and fired upon; there was then a scramble for life and all fled, leaving cattle, carts, and household effects. From twenty-seven of these carts a number of women and children were unable to escape, were consequently captured, and not one soul of them has been heard of to this day. The inhabitants of Balabanlar, hearing of what had happened to their neighbours, fled, leaving cattle and effects, and arrived safely at Rasgrad. In the village of Gor Monastir one man alone had an annual fruit harvest of 4,000 ocques. The inhabitants of Batinca, travelling in company with some neighbouring villagers, were also set upon by the Russians. The troops fired on men, women, and children indiscriminately. Everything was lost; and after the first panic, some of the men returned towards sunset and buried forty-eight of their comrades found dead. There was also found a woman bleeding from eight wounds, exhausted, but still living, and by her side a child 5 months old also living. The mother was carried on to Choumla and ultimately recovered. She is now living in the village of Batinca, but her arm is powerless. The child was given to a gipsy woman to feed, and neither have since been traced. The inhabitants of Ostrica saw their village being burned by their Bulgar neighbours, and their cattle were taken from them by the Russians, near to Kaeclyevo.

The following villages ask for relief:—

Name of Village.	Number of Houses.				Number of Inhabitants.			Cattle.	
	Before War.	After War.	Found Habitable.	Rebuilt.	Before War.	After War.	In Want of Food.	Before War.	After War.
Koprica	150	120	20	100	780	620	365	No information.	
Sakarkioz	110	65	40	25	510	410	283	Ditto.	
Busoven	85	74	54	20	416	311	247	630	171
Stroko	45	35	13	22	250	171	81	410	38
Cernica	92	73	34	39	472	351	240	485	113
Kara Urboven ..	160	140	128	12	706	550	300	1,180	290
Kaeclyevo ..	121	105	68	37	685	503	250	618	117
Totals ..	763	612	357	255	3,813	2,916	1,766	3,323	729

As in the villages visited so it is in these. Whatever cattle escaped the Russians were appropriated by the Bulgars *en route*, and of eighteen villages mentioned in my present Report, only one of them (Tchernevi) saved some cattle. The remainder, without exception, arrived at Chumla, and in their Deli Ormann refuge minus their property. In the case of Pernica, the inhabitants were kept prisoners by the Russians near to Sinanseuki for fifty-six days, and then released without their cattle. I trust your Excellency will find I have proved these people to be in a deplorable state. Returned to find their former homes destroyed, they have had to meet a harvest almost a complete failure, and to encounter a winter of unprecedented severity, which shows no signs of breaking up. A general thaw would relieve the pressure in a great measure, but it can scarcely take place within at least a month. Should your Excellency decide on a further grant from the funds I think about 10*l.* per village would suffice, and by that time the lambing season and field-work will, I hope, have commenced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED DILLON.

P.S.—The formal documents are in course of translation.

A. D.

No. 325.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 206.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 15, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the translation of certain statements which have appeared in the Turkish journal "Vakit," respecting atrocities which, it is alleged, have been perpetrated in Bulgaria. I have called Mr. Ashburnham's attention to these statements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 325.

Extract from a Letter from Varna.

(Translation.)

AS the following facts are well known to the officials at Sophia and also to the Prince, and were completely corroborated by the information obtained by the special Commissioner appointed to investigate the matter at Silistria, it is with grief and astonishment that I read a notice (8th January, 1295), published by the official Agent at the Porte, to the effect that they were entirely without foundation.

A native of the village of Cusourgha, in the Caza of Silistria, Dereli Oglu Suleiman by name, was a short time ago seized by the Bulgarian police, taken to the village of Kourt-Kekyar, and after having been several times beaten, was tortured by having his feet burnt, and died from the effects. His corpse remained unburied some days.

A native of the same village, Ibrahim Oglou Veli Ahmed by name, underwent the same treatment, having his hands and feet burnt, and was carried through the village of Kadi-Keui.

Again, four natives of Khaboldja, in the Caza of Silistria, Mukhtar Redjeb, Hadji Ali Oglou Mahommed, Kud Yakoub, and Nizam Ahmed Oglou Mustapha, were seized by the Bulgarian police and taken to Kourt-Kekyar. The police beat them to their hearts' content, burnt their feet, and sent them to Kadi-Keui.

At the village of Karakashle, in the Caza of Silistria, Kerdj Ali Ismaïl was tortured by fire, and beaten as before described.

Three natives of Saghchjak, in the Caza of Silistria, Hadji Bekh, Yeihi Chamsli, and Kamli Mehemet, likewise were beaten, but the first only was tortured by fire.

Chakir Oglou Osman, a native of Kushi Aidin, in the same Caza, was beaten to death, on the pretext of searching for arms, by a Bulgarian named Deli Goram and some Bulgarian soldiers.

No. 326.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 46.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, February* 12, 1880.

THE inclosed extracts from the "Maritza" and Philippoupolis" refer to the arrival, some weeks ago, of Mr. F. J. Scudamore, C.B., Director of the International Post Office at Constantinople, for the purpose of negotiating with the Local Government the establishment of postal and telegraphic services in this province.

The difficulties which Mr. Scudamore has encountered, and which compelled him to refer to the Porte for further instructions, arise from the fact that the Governor-General has hitherto refused to recognize the decision of the majority of five of the Commissioners of the Great Powers, who, as reported in my despatch, No. 166 of the 9th August last, resolved, in opposition to the Russian and Italian Commissioners, that the postal and telegraphic services in question should be Imperial, not provincial.

Aleko Pasha has, meanwhile, allowed one of the Directors, Dr. Vulcovitch, Director of Public Works) to organize a provincial service, both of posts and telegraphs, and since under this arrangement all the appointments in those services have been given almost exclusively to Bulgarians, extensive personal interests are now opposed to the execution of the decision of the International Commission.

Moreover, at a meeting of the Provincial Assembly, held on the 2nd January last, that body recommended to the Government, with reference to the posts and telegraphs, that it should "not allow any departure to be made from the Organic Statute, according to the spirit and letter of which those two Administrations should be placed under the immediate management of the Provincial Government."

As the question has an important political and international bearing, I trust that the Porte will not fail to furnish Mr. Scudamore with such instructions as will be in strict conformity with the decision above mentioned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 326.

Extract from the "Maritza" of February 5, 1880.

Plovdiv, le $\frac{24 \text{ Janvier}}{5 \text{ Février}}$ 1880.

LE service des postes et télégraphes commence à marcher avec régularité et sans l'incertitude qui règne encore sur la direction de ce service, l'organisation, qui se trouve dans une excellente voie, en eût été déjà achevée. En effet, la question de savoir à qui appartiendrait la direction des postes et télégraphes reste toujours à résoudre. C'est vraiment à n'y rien compendre. A part MM. Vitalis et Eumer Effendi, le Gouvernement Turc nous a envoyé Mr. Scudamore, Anglais de nationalité, homme de grand mérite, incontestablement, et dont les vastes connaissances, en matière des postes et télégraphes, nous seraient très-utiles; mais avant tout, il faut sortir d'une position encore indéterminée et qui enraye les louables efforts de la Direction à bien faire marcher les choses. Malheureusement, la Commission Européenne ne s'est pas prononcée d'une façon catégorique sur cette délicate question; elle a laissé des ambiguïtés regrettables et dont la Sublime Porte cherche à se prévaloir pour effacer notre initiative dans la direction des postes et télégraphes. Nous croyons inutile de revenir sur le fond de la question, qui a été suffisamment traitée dans le temps et ne laisse aucun doute sur nos droits dans toute cette longue et interminable affaire. Il serait vraiment à désirer qu'elle fût tranchée d'une façon ou de l'autre. Nous apprenons avec une vraie satisfaction que Mr. Scudamore a demandé des pleins pouvoirs à la Sublime Porte pour traiter définitivement la question avec le Gouvernement de cette province autonome. C'est le seul moyen d'en finir avec toutes les difficultés pendantes. Mr. Scudamore est un homme de grande expérience, juste et impartial. Si la Sublime Porte désire une solution équitable du différend surgi entre elle et la province autonome, qu'elle s'en rapporte à Mr. Scudamore et notre cause serait indubitablement gagnée.

Inclosure 2 in No. 326.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of February 10, 1880.

LA QUESTION DES POSTES ET TÉLÉGRAPHES.—Le différend qui existe entre la Sublime Porte et le Gouvernement Local au sujet des postes et télégraphes n'a pas encore été tranché définitivement, ce qui fait que le service de ce Département est toujours en souffrance, au préjudice des deux Gouvernements, dont les intérêts se trouvent également compromis, par suite de l'ajournement indéfini de cette question. La Sublime Porte chargea, dans le principe, MM. Vitalis et Omer Effendi de venir à Philippopoli s'entendre à ce sujet avec la Direction des travaux publics. Mais ni leur présence dans notre ville, ni les deux voyages de M. Vulcovitch à Constantinople ne purent aboutir à aucun résultat pratique.

Cependant la Porte, voulant en finir absolument avec cette question, crut bien faire d'envoyer ici Mr. Scudamore, Directeur de la Poste Internationale à Constantinople. Elle espérait que ce fonctionnaire serait plus heureux dans sa mission que ses devanciers. Mr. Scudamore entama donc des négociations avec le Gouvernement Local, indépendamment des démarches de MM. Vitalis et Omer Effendi; mais bien qu'il eût des pouvoirs plus étendus que ces derniers, depuis un mois qu'il est ici il n'obtint rien du Gouvernement Rouméliote.

Il paraît, et une feuille semi-officielle de notre ville l'a déjà annoncé, que Mr. Scudamore aurait demandé à la Sublime Porte des pleins pouvoirs, afin de mener à bien cette épineuse affaire. Nous ne savons pas quelle est l'étendue des nouveaux pouvoirs de Mr. Scudamore; en tous cas, si la Sublime Porte se décide à élargir le cercle de ses pouvoirs, elle doit bien faire attention qu'ils devront aussi être approuvés par les Puissances, qui s'intéressent également à cette question d'un caractère international. On sait que l'Europe a manifesté son opinion sur ce sujet par le canal de ses Représentants, au sein de la Commission Européenne, dont la majorité a reconnu les droits de la Porte, comme étant conformes aux stipulations du Statut Organique et répondant à ces propres intérêts.

Ainsi donc, si la Sublime Porte a vraiment l'intention d'investir Mr. Scudamore de pleins pouvoirs, afin de lui donner une plus grande liberté d'action, elle doit respecter la volonté des Puissances.

No. 327.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 47.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, February 12, 1880.*

PANARETOS, the Bulgarian Metropolitan, called upon me yesterday with the evident object of ascertaining whether I was disposed to assist him in taking from the Greeks the church of St. Paraskevi.

I took advantage of his visit in order to warn him of the danger of the course he was pursuing in combination with the Secret Committees, of which he is notoriously one of the most prominent members.

I told him at once that I would do nothing for him in the matter of the church, as, in my opinion, the Bulgarians had already got, by reprehensible means, far more than their proper share of the good things in this province, and were making a very bad use of what they had thus acquired.

If they wanted another church, I pointed out that they ought to build one for themselves by public subscription. His Eminence having, however, replied that the Bulgarian peasantry were too impoverished to contribute to such a fund, I remarked to him that the Secret Committees were apparently of a different opinion, since they were at present engaged in levying heavy contributions from the same peasantry for revolutionary purposes.

The Metropolitan said, in reply, that the contributions to which I referred were voluntary and for a benevolent object; that the Gymnastic Societies (which, I may here observe, represent the military forces of the Secret Committee), had been provided with arms and ammunition by the Russian Government, with the knowledge of the European Commission; and that the gymnasts had made no ill use of their arms.

I answered that voluntary contributions were not generally levied with the aid of armed men placed as sentries around a village to prevent all egress or ingress; that the "benevolent object" was at present well known to Europe, and would certainly be defeated; that the Emperor of Russia had been no doubt as much deceived as the Governments of other countries in respect to the extent and object of the arming of the Bulgarian population, while, as regards, more particularly, the distribution of ammunition prior to the Russian evacuation of the province, the Emperor had had no knowledge of it, and had even, I believed, expressed his severe reprehension of the unwarrantable conduct of his Generals in that respect; and, lastly, that the arms of the gymnasts had been used and were still being used against the Mussulman refugees.

My archives, I added, were full of evidence to that effect, and I had only to cite the recent case at Hissar, where fifty armed gymnasts had opened fire at night on a defenceless Mussulman population encamped in miserable huts, killing one man, wounding a woman, and breaking the leg of the chief man of the village, who had since died in hospital.

I warned the Metropolitan, in a solemn manner, that no Government in Europe would countenance such proceedings, still less the Government of Russia, which was at present engaged in putting down Secret Societies at home, and which was no doubt perfectly aware by this time of the correlation between subversive tendencies at home and abroad.

Moreover, it was not only the interest of established Governments, but also that of all good citizens in every country, to maintain the majesty of the law, and thus to obtain for themselves security for life and property.

The conspiracy which was being conducted in Eastern Roumelia was a gross breach of the law which Europe had given to the province. There was no justification for it. The province enjoyed large political privileges under a perfect autonomy, and, moreover, the Government of the province, in every branch and every detail of administration, was already in the hands of the Bulgarian section of the population, to the almost entire exclusion of other nationalities.

To conspire, under such circumstances, to paralyze the efforts that had been made to rescue the Mussulman population from the extermination to which they had unquestionably been condemned by the Secret Committees, and to ruin the province in a material respect by "sucking the blood" of the Bulgarian peasantry in an alleged "benevolent" cause—all these were crimes which the members of the Secret Societies would, sooner or later, be called upon to expiate.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 328.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 48.)
Philippopoli, February 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the copy of a petition which I have received from Bojo Zaprianou, a Greek inhabitant of the neighbouring town of Stanimaka, who complains that on the 22nd December / 3rd January last certain Bulgarian inhabitants of the village of Gueren fell upon his wife, inflicting blows with their fists and with bayonets, leaving her half dead, while they conducted a Russian priest (who was in his company) and himself to the village school-house.

There the petitioner alleges that he was stripped of his clothes, thrown on the ground, gagged and beaten unmercifully; after which he was imprisoned, with his hands tied, in a stable.

He further represents that he was again stripped in the stable and beaten unmercifully with sticks, his assailants telling him that they would beat him to death, because he had rented the mills and the lands of Behaddin Effendi, a Turk.

The petitioner also states that he complained to the local Sub-Prefect, who released the accused after examining them, and that his life is consequently in danger.

I have advised him to wait for a few days the result of the petition which he presented to the Prefect of Philippopoli on the 24th instant, and to come to the Consulate again in the event of the Prefect failing to take proper action.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 328.

Bojo Zaprianou to Mr. Michell.

Rue Hadji Hassan Mahalessi, dans la Maison de Behaddin Effendi Pacha, Philippopoli, 1880.

M. le Consul,

DE la pétition ci-inclus, qui a été signifiée le 12 Janvier, 1880, vous vous informez quelles pertes et déconfitures morales et matérielles j'ai subies au village Gueren. Mais jusqu'à présent on ne m'a pas donné de reparation; et comme de la réticence de cette affaire je me ruine entièrement, je me hâte de supplier votre Excellence pour que à tant d'actions humanitaires elle ajoute une nouvelle en recommandant compétemment qu'on me rende légalement justice pour assurer ma vie, mon honneur, et mes biens, parce que autrement je serai entièrement ruiné.

Dans l'espoir, M. le Consul, que mon humble demande sera exaucée, j'ai, &c.
(Signé) BOJO ZAPRIANOU.

Inclosure 2 in No. 328.

Petition.

Philippopoli, le 12/24 *Janvier*, 1880.

A l'Honorable Préfecture de Philippopoli,

JE soussigné, Bojo Zaprianou, me rendant depuis six ans au village de Gueren, ou j'allais pour faire le tailleur et d'autres affaires, ai loué avant quelques mois, en societé avec le proprietaire Behaddin Effendi, habitant de Phillipopoli, les moulins et autres terres de sa propriété se trouvant au dit village, en vertu d'un contrat de louage fait devant les autorités de Phillipopoli, et par suite je me suis installé au dit village avec ma famille.

Le Samedi 22 Décembre, 1879 (v.s.), parti de Sténimaka avec Vitanis Leikoff, je me rendais au village Gueron conduisant mes deux animaux chargés de vin.

Au delà du village Seimen, à une distance d'une heure et demie de Gueren, nous rencontrâmes un prêtre Russe portant des caisses pleines d'images, &c.

Le prêtre a voulu nous accompagner et prendre l'hospitalité de notre village; par conséquent je l'ai délivré de son fardeau, que j'ai mis sur le dos de mes animaux.

Après une demi-heure de route Vitanis, le premier de mes compagnons de voyage, a voulu aviser le prêtre du village pour qu'il donnât la cloche en l'honneur du prêtre Russe. J'ai tâché de le dissuader, mais il n'a pas voulu m'entendre, en disant qu'il y a un ordre du

Sous-Préfet d'Abrachlar d'après lequel les individus de cette classe doivent être rencontrés avec des battements de cloches.

Nous continuâmes notre chemin en conversant avec le prêtre Russe, et ainsi nous arrivâmes au village; là on a sonné la cloche, mais personne ne vint à la rencontre du prêtre; aussi par devoir je l'ai invité chez moi pour régaler.

Une demi-heure après ma femme s'occupait à son ménage; deux villageois viennent inviter mon hôte pour aller chez Pop Guivass; mais il n'a pas consenti, en disant qu'il s'était reposé plus ici et qu'il irait le lendemain lui faire une visite.

Vingt minutes après vinrent les défendeurs Deltcho Voulcoff, Gueno Geudadji, Racho Pencoff, Petar Geliascoff, Jano Nedettchoff, et Athanase Michoglou, qui forçaient le prêtre Russe, mon hôte, de partir avec eux; mais il résista en disant qu'il n'acceptera pas de force l'hospitalité et les a priés de le laisser tranquille. Alors les susdits se jètèrent sur nous comme des possédés, et Jano Nedeltchoff avec Racho Pencoff se jetèrent sur ma femme et avec des soufflets, des coups de poing, et avec la baïonnette l'ont laissée à demi morte. Moi et le prêtre Russe il nous conduisirent par force à l'école.

Saisi d'épouvante à la vue de cet horrible attentat, le prêtre Russe fut forcé de se rendre chez Dedo Peiko. Quant à moi, ils me retinrent à l'école et d'abord tous les défendeurs se jetèrent sur moi et me battirent impitoyablement avec des coups de poing, prétendant que c'était moi qui avait envoyé Vitanis, mon compagnon de voyage, pour aller sonner la cloche. Mais quand je m'expliquais qu'au contraire c'était moi qui le lu défendait, ils m'ont donné une minute de repos.

Mais bientôt après le Chef de la bande Athanase Matcoff m'a déshabillé, jeté par terre, et m'a mis la ceinture comme baillon; c'est alors qu'ils ont commencé à me battre sans merci, les dits Athanase Matcoff, Marino Grof Moglou, Vitko Tchobadji, Spassa Tchorbadji, Velko Apostoleff, Delhu et Racho Pencoff, jusqu'à ce qu'ils m'eussent laissé à demi mort.

Après ils m'ont habillé, et liant mes mains, ils m'ont conduit à l'écurie du dit Chef Athanase Matcoff; ils m'ont enfermé sous la garde de son ouvrier Gioso Nicoloff.

Trois heures après Athanase Matcoff, Marino Grof Moglou, et Vitko Tchobadji, retournèrent, me déshabillèrent encore et recommencèrent à me battre sans merci avec des bâtons en me disant, "Vous voulez louer les moulins et les terres de Behaddin Effendi? nous vous battrons à mort; nous ne vous laisserons pas vivant dans le village," et quand ils se fatiguèrent ils me laissèrent à demi mort, les mains liées jusqu'au lendemain à 10 heures du soir, à quelle heure ils m'envoyèrent avec les gardes champêtres Constantin et Ivem au Sous-Préfet d'Abrachlar.

M. le Sous-Préfet ayant eu la lettre que lui ont envoyé les Tchorbadji, mes persécuteurs, a entendu notre récit sur tout ce qui c'était passé; il a appelé sur le champ le médecin qui, après avoir examiné mes blessures, fit le rapport convenable.

M. le Sous-Préfet, persuadé que mon récit n'était pas faux, m'a mis en liberté, me promettant de me dédommager après les fêtes conformément à la loi. J'appris ensuite que M. le Sous-Préfet a mandé avant-hier mes adversaires et les a interrogés, mais comme ils furent mis en liberté, ils cherchent l'occasion de me tuer.

Attendu que cet attentat infernal provient de ce que j'ai loué en compagnie avec le propriétaire Behaddin Effendi ses moulins et ses terres;

Vu que dans le Statut Organique tout Rouméliote a le droit d'exercer sa profession dans quelque endroit de la Roumelie Orientale qu'il désire;

Comme j'ai dépensé une somme assez forte aux moulins, terres, et boutique—somme qui ne m'appartient pas—et que l'agression en question m'a causé des pertes et peut-être il m'en surviendra des plus considérables;

Et comme pareille agression vandalique ne se pardonne dans aucun endroit du monde.

Pour cela j'exige—

1. De faire venir les dits agresseurs et de les punir en conformité avec la loi;

2. De les obliger à nous indemniser, moi et ma femme, pour les blessures qu'ils m'ont faites, comme en témoigne le Rapport du docteur, jusqu'à notre guérison entière;

3. De les obliger à m'indemniser pour tous les dommages que j'ai subis et je subirai a cause des pertes de temps sur ce sujet;

4. Qu'ils donnent une garantie pour la sécurité de notre honneur, de notre vie, ainsi que de l'argent étranger qui se trouve entre mes mains.

Dans l'espoir, M. le Préfet, que ma juste demande sera exaucée, je suis, &c.
(Signé) BOJO ZAPRIANOU.

No. 329.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 19.) *Philippopoli, February* 12, 1880.

My Lord,

THE "Maritza" having, in the inclosed article, attempted to prove that the statements made in the "Commercial Advertiser" and the "Philippopolis" were false, in respect to the manner in which the sums voted by the Assembly were being distributed between the Bulgarians and Mussulmans of this province, the "Philippopolis" has replied in an article, of which I have likewise the honour to inclose a copy, and which establishes beyond all further controversy the correctness of the previous statements made in the "Commercial Advertiser" and the "Philippopolis."

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 329.

Extract from the "Maritza" of February 2, 1880.

Plovdiv, le $\frac{21 \text{ Janvier}}{2 \text{ Février}}$ 1880.

Il a pris récemment fantaisie au correspondant du "Moniteur du Commerce" à Plovdiv de dénaturer le caractère philanthropique des crédits que l'Assemblée Provinciale a, dans sa première session, votés en faveur des nécessiteux de la province en général et des réfugiés Musulmans en particulier. Le "Philippopolis" n'a pas naturellement laissé échapper l'occasion de reproduire une si belle thèse et de faire chorus avec ses auteurs bien connus, dont l'unique aspiration semble être d'employer tous les moyens—les moyens déshonnêtes surtout—pour établir la croyance, à Constantinople et ailleurs, que rien de bon ne peut sensément venir des Bulgares—même d'une Assemblée dont la majorité se trouve être Bulgare; et qu'il faut en un mot:—

"Dévorer ce maudit animal
Ce pelé, ce galeux d'où vient tout le mal."

Or donc, quelque peu clerc comme le loup de la fable de La Fontaine, ce correspondant, que le "Moniteur du Commerce" appelle une source "très-sérieuse," entend prouver, que dans l'assignation des susdits fonds de secours, l'Assemblée Provinciale de la Roumélie Orientale a taillé une part de lion aux Bulgares et qu'elle n'a laissé aux malheureux Musulmans que les miettes de la lippée.

Nous allons démontrer le contraire, non pas en nous servant de données fantaisistes et passionnées, comme le "Moniteur du Commerce," mais en nous appuyant sur les chiffres mêmes fournis pour le Budget approuvé par la Représentation Provinciale.

La "source très-sérieuse" du "Moniteur du Commerce" commence par établir que l'Assemblée a voté £ T. 102,000 pour les nécessiteux, en décidant que le Gouvernement donnerait cette somme en deux fois, soit £ T. 62,000 la première fois, et £ T. 40,000 la seconde.

Jusque-là rien de plus vrai. Mais où la "source très-sérieuse" se met déjà à abuser de la bonne foi de son public, c'est lorsqu'au moyen d'un étalage artificieux de chiffres presque exacts et d'indications totalement fausses, elle "promet" de prouver que les crédits d'assistance ont été affectés non-seulement à des usages quasi antitures, mais que le Gouvernement Rouméliote a puisé l'argent y afférant à des sources indues, que disons-nous, à des sources criminelles.

En dépit de cette promesse solennelle, le correspondant du "Moniteur du Commerce" se garde bien néanmoins d'indiquer ces sources impures en ce qui concerne le crédit des £ T. 62,000, prélevées bel et bien sur les revenus de la province. Il est vrai que promettre et tenir font deux, et qu'un Bulgarophobe aussi sérieux que le correspondant du journal Anglo-Hellène de Péra n'est pas tenue de s'arrêter à ces petits détails.

En revanche, ce gentleman s'empresse, aussitôt après, de répartir à sa manière les subsides votés, et de ce tour de passe-passe il semble effectivement ressortir pour tous ceux qui ne sont pas au courant des faits réels que tous les secours ont non-seulement été entièrement distribués aux Bulgares, mais qu'à y regarder de près les Turcs ont été encore volés dans l'opération.

C'est incontestablement très-habile, mais c'est en même temps déshonnête, faux, et

nous allons en fournir la démonstration en prenant en main le Budget de l'Exercice courant. Section 7, Chapitre 65 de ce Budget on lit relativement aux secours votés:—

	£ T.
Avances à Eski-Zagra	10,000
Pour construction de maisons aux indigents sans distinction à Eski-Zagra	1,500
Avances à Kalofer	3,000
" Chipka	1,000
" Hadjar	1,500
Total	17,000

N.B.—Toutes ces avances devront être remboursées.

Ainsi donc, d'après le correspondant du "Moniteur du Commerce," voilà £ T. 17,000 dont n'auront profité que les Bulgares, puisque ces avances auront servi à construire des maisons aux Chrétiens dans les endroits susmentionnés. Très-bien.

Mais pourquoi l'Assemblée Provinciale a-t-elle décidé de consacrer spécialement cette somme à la reconstruction des habitations Chrétiennes? C'est uniquement pour mettre les Chrétiens de ces localités à même d'évacuer les maisons Turques qu'ils y occupaient, à défaut des leurs impitoyablement incendiées par les irréguliers Turcs dans la dernière guerre; c'est pour mettre, disons-nous, les Chrétiens à même de restituer à leurs concitoyens Musulmans les maisons épargnées, sans s'exposer eux-mêmes à toutes les intempéries de la mauvaise saison.

Qui a donc, tout compte fait, bénéficié indirectement de ces £ T. 17,000? Ce ne sont, à coup sûr, pas les Chrétiens dont la position ne s'est pas, matériellement, améliorée de ce chef et qui ont contracté une dette (puisque les avances sont remboursables), mais bien les Turcs qui, grâce à cette assignation, ont pu, après une année d'absence, et dans des circonstances aussi exceptionnelles, rentrer sans peine en possession de leurs maisons.

Le crédit suivant de £ T. 15,000 affecté à la reconstruction des maisons détruites sur les autres points de la province est une assignation tout-à-fait analogue à celle que nous venons d'expliquer: elle se rapporte sans distinction à toutes les habitations détruites, dans la Roumélie Orientale, Turques et Chrétiennes.

Vient ensuite la somme de £ T. 25,000 pour semences aux cultivateurs besoigneux. Le correspondant du "Moniteur du Commerce" se garde bien d'avouer ici que les cultivateurs besoigneux de la province sont en général des Musulmans. Les paysans Bulgares avaient commencé à ensemencer dès l'occupation Russe; ils ont donc pu payer deux fois de suite la dîme (en 1878 et 1879) et ont contribué ainsi au revenu du pays. Les Turcs, eux, qui s'étaient enfuis, sont retournés au mois d'Octobre dernier seulement, manquant de tout pour se remettre au travail et ne rapportant rien à l'Etat, au contraire.

C'est principalement à leur intention que cette assignation a été faite au Budget, et ce sont eux qui en ont profité et qui en profitent.

Il ne reste sur le premier crédit de £ T. 62,000 que la somme de £ T. 5,000 entièrement consacrée aux fugitifs Musulmans et qu'en raison de sa petitesse sans doute le correspondant du "Moniteur du Commerce" a eu l'honnêteté de ne pas contester.

En récapitulant, nous trouvons donc que les Musulmans ont été appelés par l'Assemblée Provinciale à bénéficier au premier chef du fonds de £ T. 62,000, et cela pour la bonne raison que cette somme avait été destinée aux nécessiteux en général, et que les indigents de la province sont en majeure partie des Musulmans.

Arrivons maintenant au crédit de £ T. 40,000,—consacré en entier aux Musulmans celui-là, de l'aveu même du correspondant du "Moniteur du Commerce," mais dont la provenance, d'après ce gentleman, est digne de réprobation:—

"Les trois quarts de cette somme, dit-il dans son article, doivent être pris du produit de la vente des bestiaux et d'autres propriétés des fugitifs Musulmans, faite à l'époque de l'occupation Russe. . . . Ainsi l'Assemblée Provinciale de la Roumélie Orientale a résolu de venir au secours des réfugiés Turcs en se servant de leurs propres biens. . ."

Le correspondant "très-sérieux" abuse encore de l'ignorance du lecteur, mais il nous donne ici derechef la satisfaction de le battre avec ses propres armes.

Comme il l'avoue lui-même, en remettant la gestion des finances du pays dans les mains de l'Administration nouvelle, la Commission Européenne avait manifesté au Gouvernement actuel le désir de tenir cette somme (en réalité de £ T. 44,985) à la disposition de ceux qui y ont droit.

Or, le Gouvernement n'a point failli à ce devoir: cette somme est toujours à la disposition des ayants-droit, qui ne se sont pas montrés jusqu'à présent et qui peuvent être certains de rentrer en possession de leur avoir le jour où ils se présenteront puisque les prélèvements faits sur ce dépôt n'ont été effectués qu'à titre conditionnel.

En effet, voici ce que l'Article 3 de la Loi y relative dit:—

"Si, apres l'affectation des 3,000,000 piastres, le reste des sommes conditionnelles ne suffit pas de satisfaire aux réclamations justifiées des ayants-droit Musulmans, satisfaction sera donnée à ces réclamations des revenus de la province."

Voilà ce que le correspondant du "Moniteur du Commerce" néglige d'exposer lorsqu'il prétend fallacieusement qu'on fait la charité aux Turcs avec leurs propres deniers.

Fort heureusement pour eux, les Musulmans Roumeliotes ne sont pas aussi doctrinaires que leurs soi-disant défenseurs. Ils acceptent avec reconnaissance les secours qui leur sont alloués sans se soucier de deviner s'il peut plaire à telle ou telle coterie, locale ou étrangère de voir les Musulmans secourus par une Assemblée Provinciale composée en majeure partie de Bulgares.

Aujourd'hui, beaucoup de Turcs bien pensants sont même pertinemment convaincus que si le "Moniteur du Commerce," le "Philippoupolis," et leurs inspirateurs battent tant la grosse caisse à propos de leurs malheurs et de leurs souffrances, c'est beaucoup moins dans le but d'améliorer leur sort qu'en vue de certaines visées particulières, totalement étrangères à l'amour de l'Osmanli.

Inclosure 2 in No. 329.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of February 7, 1880.

IL n'y a pas longtemps, le "Philippoupolis," et, après lui, le "Moniteur du Commerce," ont commenté la façon dont les £T. 102,000, votées par l'Assemblée Provinciale et destinées aux réfugiés Turcs, devaient être réparties. Nous avons amplement prouvé que ce sont les Bulgares, et non pas les Turcs, qui auront dans cette circonstance encore la part du lion. Nous nous attendions bien à voir la presse semi-officielle Bulgare crier haro sur nous; ce qui n'a pas manqué d'arriver. Après avoir mûrement médité sur ce sujet, nos confrères Bulgares ont cherché par divers détours, à diminuer, si possible était, la valeur des assertions des deux journaux précités.

Nous ne nous arrêterons pas sur les apophtègues et les théories de la "Maritza" relativement à la question qui nous occupe, attendu qu'ils ne sont d'aucune valeur pratique. Nous ne nous donnerons pas non plus la peine de relever les épithètes de "faux, déshonnêtes, menteurs" dont la feuille Pan-Bulgare à la gentillesse de nous gratifier, à nous comme à notre confrère de Constantinople. Il paraît que dans le dictionnaire Bulgare ces termes sont synonymes de "politesse, convenances, caresse." Nous allons seulement examiner quelques-uns des arguments que la "Maritza" oppose aux nôtres. Dans un article publié le 15 Janvier, nous disions que des £T. 62,000 en question £T. 17,000 serviront à la construction des villes et des villages habités par les Bulgares, £T. 15,000 à indemniser ceux des Bulgares qui évacuent les maisons Turques, £T. 25,000 seront distribuées aux paysans de toute nationalité pour s'acheter de la semence, et £T. 5,000 seront affectées à l'installation des réfugiés Musulmans.

La "Maritza" dit que ces chiffres sont inexacts, et que, en répartissant de cette façon les £T. 62,000, nous avions en vue de diminuer le mérite de l'Assemblée Provinciale pour ses sentiments philanthropiques à l'égard des Turcs.

Mais ouvrons le Budget de l'exercice courant. A la section 7, chapitre 65, nous lisons ce qui suit relativement au crédit voté :—

	£T.
Avances à la ville d'Eski-Zaghra	10,000
Pour la construction de maisons des indigents de la même ville.. ..	3,000
Avances à Kalofer	1,500
" Chipka	1,000
" Hadjar	1,500
Total	17,000

Toutes ces villes sont Bulgares, et partant, les sommes ci-dessus reviennent exclusivement aux Bulgares. Il est vrai que ces contrées ont été dévastées à l'époque de la guerre, mais il nest pas moins vrai que pendant et après cette guerre jusqu'à l'été passé, beaucoup de maisons et des villages Turcs ont été detruits de fond en comble, non pas par des troupes régulières ou irrégulières et par des Bachi-Bozouks, mais par les paysans Bulgares. Les habitants de ces villages sont logés dans des cabines exposées au froid de l'hiver. Des £T. 62,000 prélevées sur les revenus de la province, on en affecte £T. 17,000 à la construction de villes Bulgares, telles que celles dont nous avons cité les noms plus haut, tandis qu'on ne veut rien donner pour réédification des villages Turcs détruits. Pourquoi fait-on cette distinction partiale seulement pour les Bulgares?

Passons maintenant à l'examen des £T. 15,000.

La "Maritza" soutient que cette somme est affectée à la reconstruction, sur toute l'étendue de la Roumélie Orientale, des maisons détruites, quelques soient leurs propriétaires, Chrétiens ou Turcs. Nous ne voulons pas rendre à notre confrère la monnaie de sa pièce, et lui faire l'injure de le traiter de menteur; nous croyons seulement qu'il a été induit en erreur; nous trouvons la constatation de cette erreur dans le Budget même (section 7, chapitre 65, paragraphe 7), qui est ainsi conçu :

"Secours aux Chrétiens (lisez Bulgares), qui évacuent les maisons Turques, £T. 15,000."

Ainsi, comme on le voit, il n'y est pas dit que cette somme est destinée à la reconstruction des maisons détruites, sans distinction de nationalité.

De ce que nous venons de dire il résulte de la manière la plus évidente que les £T. 32,000 sont consacrées à venir en aide aux Bulgares, sans que les Turcs en profitent en quoi que ce soit.

Quant aux £T. 25,000, accordées aux paysans indigents pour s'acheter des graines, elles seront partagées entre les Turcs et les Bulgares. Mais ces derniers n'ont pas besoin du tout de ce secours, attendu que, pendant et après la guerre, ils ont cultivé, non-seulement leurs propres terres, mais encore celles des Turcs. De cette façon, les Bulgares contribuent, il est vrai, à grossir les revenus de l'Etat, mais il ne reste pas moins acquis que, en refusant de donner aux Turcs la part qui leur revient de droit, ils les mettent dans la triste position de ne pas pouvoir cultiver leurs terres, faute de moyens y nécessaires. Sous quelque face qu'on examine la chose, il ressort toujours que les Bulgares ont la plus large part dans la répartition des £T. 25,000.

Ainsi, des £T. 62,000 les £T. 32,000 sont exclusivement offertes aux Bulgares, £T. 5,000 seulement sont accordées aux Turcs, et £T. 25,000 seront dispensées entre Bulgares et Turcs. A supposer que les Turcs reçoivent la moitié de cette dernière somme, leur part afférente de la somme totale est de £T. 17,500; le reste, c'est-à-dire £T. 44,500, revient aux Bulgares. Cela posé, nous prions notre confrère de la "Maritza," qui s'est enjoué à force de corner la chose, de nous dire lequel de deux éléments profite d'avantage de cette opération soi-disant philanthropique : du Bulgare auquel il ne manque rien, ou du Turc qui meurt de faim?

Quant au crédit de £T. 40,000 provenant du produit de la vente des biens des Turcs et faisant partie du fond de réserve, bien que ce crédit ait été voté en faveur des réfugiés Turcs, cependant nos informations, que la "Maritza," en sa qualité de feuille semi-officielle, ne doit pas ignorer, nous permettent de savoir que les Bulgares doivent bénéficier de la moitié de cette somme.

Où sont donc ces grands sacrifices faits en faveur des Turcs, ces promesses pompeuses que les feuilles Bulgares ne cessent de chanter sur tous les tons? On ne fait tout simplement que restituer aux Turcs une bien faible partie de ce qu'on leur doit.

L'Assemblée Provinciale prête aux Bulgares des revenus de la province, et aux réfugiés Turcs de leurs propres biens. Encore une fois qui, des Bulgares ou des Turcs, profitent de cette opération financière?

No. 330.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February 28.*)

(No. 50.)

Philippopoli, February 13, 1880

My Lord,

HAVING received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople the sum of 200*l.*, the gift of a charitable lady, for distribution among the Mussulman refugees on the Bulgarian frontier, I called upon the Secretary-General, and, acquainting him with the fact, asked whether refugees of the class in question were only to be found at Kyzanlik, and whether they were in want of assistance.

M. Crestovich replied that the Mussulman refugees from Bulgaria were concentrated at Kyzanlik, and that they were not in want of any relief, since he had ordered them to be removed from their canvas tents and housed in mosques and other buildings, and since also he had issued orders that they should be treated on a perfect equality with Mussulman refugees belonging to this province.

Having some experience, however, of the manner in which the indigenous refugees were being treated, I telegraphed a few days later to M. Papazoglou, the Deputy for Kyzanlik, who replied that the refugees from Bulgaria were in want of relief.

I thereupon requested him to draw upon me for £T. 100, or to indicate the person to

whom I could pay that amount at Philippopoli, and to be kind enough to distribute the amount in food and clothes with the co-operation of a Bulgarian gentleman of the Protestant faith with whom I communicated at the same time. Receiving no answer from M. Papazoglou (who, I may observe, is one of the richest men in the province), I made arrangements by telegraph with M. Kasseff, the other Bulgarian citizen of Kyzanlik, to whom I ultimately despatched a special messenger with the sum of £ T. 100 in cash.

Shortly after I had made this arrangement I received a letter from M. Papazoglou, expressing his regret that "the great pains and trouble created by the late distribution to the refugees in question do not permit us to take part again in such an affair."

The trouble to which M. Papazoglou thus refers consisted in handing over the money that had previously been sent by the Refugee Relief Committee to his clerks, for distribution in small amounts to the refugees, although he had been distinctly requested to distribute the relief in bread and clothes.

I am, however, happy to be able to report to your Lordship that M. Kasseff has readily acceded to my request by distributing the £ T. 100 which I sent him in biscuit and clothes; but, at the same time, I deeply regret that, owing to the delay caused by my correspondence with M. Papazoglou, M. Kasseff found that some of the refugees had not tasted food for two days.

I have the honour to inclose a translation of M. Kasseff's Report on the subject.

He has been requested to telegraph to me when further aid becomes necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 330.

Report by Mr. Kasseff, of Kyzanlik, dated February 9, 1880.

(Translation from the Bulgarian.)

HAVING received the £ T. 100 which you forwarded to me, I bought and distributed on the 7th instant 3,000 okes of biscuits among the Turkish refugees of Loftcha.

Some of them had been two days without food. As each took his portion of ten okes, he began to eat voraciously out of the bags. I hope this will be sufficient for some time. I shall give them, to-day or to-morrow, some clothes, sheep-skins, and shoes.

Happy be the lady who has sent this relief. It arrived at a moment when the refugees had reached an extreme point of distress.

No. 331.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February 28.*)

(No. 52. Confidential.)

Philippopoli, February 13, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the copy of a letter which was addressed to the Governor-General by the President of the Provincial Assembly on the 16th ultimo, and in which Mr. Gueshoff enumerates some of the resolutions passed at the last few sessions of that body.

The most important of those resolutions relate to the transfer of the public moneys from the Imperial Ottoman Bank into the hands of Provincial Treasurers; to the reduction of the effective strength of the militia, and the future numerical composition of the gendarmerie; and lastly, to the organization of a provincial service of posts and telegraphs, in defiance of the resolution adopted by five of the members of the European Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 331.

M. Gueshoff to Aleko Pasha.

M. le Gouverneur-Général,

Philippopoli, le 3 Janvier, 1880.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence les motions qui ont été adoptées par l'Assemblée Provinciale, dans ses dernières séances, parmi lesquelles votre Excellence trouvera aussi la décision prise par l'Assemblée, relativement à l'effectif de présence des soldats de chaque compagnie, ainsi que celui des brigades de la gendarmerie à pied et à cheval, au sujet desquels vous avez demandé des renseignements, par votre communication du 31 Décembre, 1879.

Dans sa séance du 14 Décembre, 1879, l'Assemblée Provinciale recommande au Gouvernement de ne pas laisser dorénavant l'argent de la province à la Banque Ottomane, mais de le mettre dans la Caisse de l'Etat, et passe à l'ordre du jour.

Dans la même séance du 14 Décembre, l'Assemblée Provinciale recommande au Gouvernement, conformément à l'Article 121, Annexe 7 du Statut Organique, d'exiger des fonctionnaires des finances chargés de la manipulation des deniers publics, un cautionnement en bien meubles ou immeubles ou en valeurs quelconque, et passe à l'ordre du jour.

Dans sa séance du 15 Décembre l'Assemblée Provinciale prie le Gouvernement d'aider jusqu'au bout la reconstruction de la ville d'Eski-Zaghra, sur un nouveau plan, et passe à l'ordre du jour.

Dans sa séance du 20 Décembre l'Assemblée Provinciale recommande au Gouvernement de préparer, pour la prochaine session, un projet de loi sur les traitements des fonctionnaires relevant de l'Administration Militaire (de l'armée), et passe à l'ordre du jour.

Dans la même séance du 20 Décembre l'Assemblée Provinciale a décidé que l'effectif de chaque compagnie sera de 160 soldats, 1 sergent-major, 9 sous-officiers, et 12 caporaux, et passe à l'ordre du jour.

Dans sa séance du 21 Décembre, 1879, l'Assemblée Provinciale a fixé le nombre des brigades de la gendarmerie comme suit:—

170 brigades à pied, 80 brigades à cheval; en tout 250 brigades de 6 hommes par brigade; en tout 1,500 hommes, et passe à l'ordre du jour.

Dans sa séance du 21 Décembre, 1879, l'Assemblée Provinciale recommande au Gouvernement de ne pas permettre, concernant les postes et télégraphes, qu'il soit dérogé au Statut Organique, d'après l'esprit et la lettre duquel ces deux Administrations doivent être placées sous la direction immédiate du Gouvernement de la Province et passe à l'ordre du jour.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Président,
(Signé) IV. EVS. GUÉCHOFF.

No. 332.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February 28.*)

(No. 53.)

Philippopoli, February 13, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram No. 9, *en clair*, of yesterday's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of the Report made by Mr. T. Macasdar, Assistant Secretary of the Central Refugee Committee, on the subject of the extreme distress which he was sent by the Committee to relieve in the village of Eryler.

The horrors of the case are aggravated by the fact that the Vice-President of the Committee had personally and officially brought to the knowledge of the Secretary-General the extremities to which the Mussulmans of Eryler had been reduced, and had been told with considerable discourtesy that the deputations sent by that village were not stating the truth and that they ought to have applied to the Government, not to the Committee. The deputies affirm, however, that when they represented their wretched condition to the Bailli of their district, they were driven away by that official and told he had nothing to give them.

The Committee has transmitted a copy of Mr. Macasdar's Report to the Governor-General, calling his Excellency's attention to the fact that the Committee had supplied

the villages of Eryler and Gueukdjiler with means of existence for only six days more, its funds being almost entirely exhausted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 332.

M. Macasdar to the Vice-President of the Central Refugee Committee.

Monsieur, *Philippopoli, le* 11 *Février*, 1880.

DANS la dernière séance du Comité Central de Secours aux Réfugiés, il fut communiqué une pétition de la part du village d'Eryler, département de Haskeuï, exposant l'état d'extrême misère qui régnait dans leur village; les signataires de la pétition affirmèrent que pendant plusieurs jours la plupart des villageois n'avaient rien mangé et que jusqu'au moment de leur départ vingt-deux étaient morts de faim ou de froid.

Le Comité vit dans cette pétition un cas d'urgence; mais ses ressources étant très-faibles, M. le Vice-Président, accompagné de moi, amena au Directeur de l'Intérieur les pétitionnaires précités, en même temps qu'une autre députation de la même catégorie.

Dans cette entrevue M. Crestovitch exprima très-fortement ses doutes sur la véracité de ce qu'ils avançaient, et les renvoya se pourvoir devant le Bailli du district.

Le lendemain pourtant la nouvelle nous parvint d'Eryler que depuis le départ des pétitionnaires cinq personnes encore étaient mortes de misère et que la faim emporterait tous les villageois, si un prompt secours ne leur était donné.

Il ne fallait donc pas perdre du temps et le Comité Central décida d'expédier immédiatement du secours à cette localité.

Je quittai Philippopoli à 6 heures du matin le 8, accompagné de Moustapha, l'Imam d'Eryler, pour me rendre à ce village et y distribuer les quelques provisions de bouche et habits, et en outre une somme d'argent, et tout destiné à ces malheureux.

A 1 heure de l'après-midi j'arrivai à Eryler. En apercevant leur Imam en ma compagnie les habitants du village se précipitèrent à notre rencontre. Ils étaient tous en haillons réduits à leur plus simple expression, et je remarquai parmi eux des enfants tout nus. Quand ils apprirent l'objet de ma visite la joie qu'ils témoignèrent fut touchante; les uns pleuraient à chaudes larmes, les autres riaient aux éclats; les enfants sautaient de gaieté et de bonheur.

Ils allaient enfin manger.

Je fus conduit à une hutte (coulibé) meublée de deux nattes et trois morceaux de tapis et un petit coussin. C'était leur meilleure habitation.

Les autres huttes ne jouissaient même pas de ce luxe. A peine arrivé, je fus informé qu'une femme était mourante de faim. Je me rendis auprès d'elle. Je fis frappé de la scène qui se présenta à mes yeux.

La malheureuse femme, réduite à l'état de squelette, était couchée sur le sol. Elle avait une bûche pour oreiller; je m'approchai et lui demandai si je pouvais lui être utile.

Elle répondit d'une voix faible: "Je veux mourir; j'irai rejoindre mes deux enfants morts de faim il n'y a pas quinze jours." Elle ne put continuer.

Je lui fis donner du thé et du pain que j'avais avec moi. Son expression devint tout autre. Je lui promis des couvertures et une jacquette, dès l'arrivée du chariot qui les contenait, et je la quittai pour visiter les autres habitations. C'était comme je le dis plus haut, des huttes toutes nues.

Partout je ne rencontrais que des figures hâves, des mines cadavériques.

Pendant ma tournée je rencontrai une femme et trois enfants courbés devant une mare et avalant la boue qu'ils en extrayaient. Ils me dirent qu'ils ne s'étaient nourris de rien autre chose depuis deux jours, et leur figures n'indiquait pas qu'ils me racontassent un mensonge.

Dans une autre baraque je vis une femme qui avait accouchée quatre jours auparavant mais dont l'enfant était mort, sa mère n'ayant pas de lait pour le nourrir. Elle aussi était couchée par terre sans couverture. Elle souffrait aussi d'une fièvre violente. Plus loin je remarquai une femme et son enfant mangeant un morceau de charbon.

Une autre femme mangeait des vallonées. Cette dernière pour tout vêtement n'avait qu'un morceau de ligne lui servant de ceinture.

Une troisième mangeait de l'écorce de maïs. Bientôt des cris de joie saluaient l'arrivée des provisions et des couvertures et habits, dont je fis la distribution sans perte de temps.

Les villageois se jetaient sur le pain dont ils avalaient avec gloutonnerie de grands morceaux.

Avant de quitter Eryler une députation envoyé par le village de Gueukdjéler, à un quart d'heure d'éloignement d'Eryler, est venue m'inviter à passer par leur village. Ce que je fis le lendemain.

A Gueukdjéler l'état est aussi déplorable qu'au village d'Eryler, seulement il n'y a pas eu beaucoup de cas de mort par la famine. Je dois ajouter, cependant, que, si des secours ne leur sont pas envoyés d'urgence, il en sera de même qu'à Eryler. J'ai distribué aux habitants de Gueukdjéler un peu de pain (50 occues) et de l'argent.

Ci-joint j'ai l'honneur de remettre au Comité Central la statistique des habitants de ces deux villages.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) JACQUES MACASDAR.

Statistique des Habitants du Village d'Eryler.

IL se trouve dans ce village 231 familles, composées de 823 personnes, dont 435 adultes et 388 enfants.

Actuellement malades:—

	Personnes.
Adultes	18
Enfants	13
Total	31

Morts de faim dans l'espace d'un mois:—

	Personnes.
Adultes	17
Enfants	68
Total	85

Philippopoli, le 11 *Février*, 1880.

Statistique des Habitants du Village Gueukdjéler.

Il se trouve dans ce village 80 familles, composées de 334 personnes, dont 161 adultes et 173 enfants.

Actuellement malades:—

	Personnes.
Adultes	5
Enfants	0
Total	5

Morts de faim dans l'espace de 35 jours:—

	Personnes.
Adultes	5
Enfants	14
Total	19

Philippopoli, le 11 *Février*, 1880.

No. 333.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 54.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, February* 13, 1880.

NOTWITHSTANDING the order issued by the Governor-General on the 11th November last, by which the Gymnastic Societies in this province were suppressed, the drilling of Bulgarian peasants and citizens is continued all over the province, and the depôts of ammunition which were to have been transferred to the military authorities remain to this day in the hands of those illegal societies and at the disposal of the Secret Committees.

Colonel Borthwick, the Inspector of the Gendarmerie, having, in the fulfilment of his duty, drawn the attention of the Government to the fact that civilians were being drilled two and three times a week in the neighbouring town of Tatar-Bazardjik, and that recourse had, in some cases, been had to force and blows in order to compel the attendance of gymnasts at such military exercises, it transpired that the Secretary-General had omitted to communicate the above-mentioned order of Aleko Pasha to the Prefects of the several departments, who are therefore justified in professing ignorance on the subject of the so-called "suppression" of the Gymnastic Societies.

I may add that no measures have yet been taken by General Strecker in pursuance of that order with the object of converting the "suppressed" gymnasts into an equally illegal ban and reserve of the militia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 334.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 55. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, February* 13, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 54 of this date, I have the honour to transmit herewith copies of the correspondence between Colonel Borthwick and the officer in command of the gendarmerie at Tatar-Bazardjik, as well as a copy of the letter addressed by the former to General Strecker, on the subject of the illegal drilling of civilians at Tatar-Bazardjik.

Colonel Borthwick has not yet received an answer from General Strecker, whom he has requested to state whether the men who are being drilled at Tatar-Bazardjik have been legally incorporated into the bans and reserve of the militia.

The General will have some difficulty in replying, since the orders of the Governor-General suppressing the Gymnastic Societies have never been carried out.

Aleko Pasha sent for Colonel Borthwick a few days ago, and telling him, with much sternness, that the Prefect of Tatar-Bazardjik had complained against him for asking questions respecting the Gymnastic Society of that town, asked, in his turn, how he had dared to "meddle in a political question."

Colonel Borthwick replied that it was his duty to know what was going on in the province, and to report to the Government if he heard of any proceedings which were calculated to disturb public order and tranquillity, and the illegal drilling of gymnasts who had been officially suppressed as a body was certainly a case which it was his duty to make known to his commanding officer.

The firm reply of Colonel Borthwick caused Aleko Pasha to change his tone, and even to tell the Inspector of the Gendarmerie that he had well performed his duty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 334.

Colonel Borthwick to Captain Théodoroff.

M. le Capitaine, *Le* 20 *Janvier*, 1880.

JE viens d'apprendre que dans les environs de Tatar-Bazardjik sinon dans la ville même, des corps de gens armés, mais qui ne sont, ni de notre gendarmerie ni de notre milice, se livrent deux ou trois fois par semaine à des exercices militaires.

Je n'ai connaissance d'aucun corps qui soit permis par la loi de la province de s'exercer sous armes dans les manœuvres militaires excepté la milice et la gendarmerie.

Je vous prie, M. le Capitaine, de me donner des renseignements exacts sur la vérité de ce que je viens de vous démontrer, qui sont les personnes qui se livrent aux exercices sous armes?

En vertu de quel ordre agissent-ils de cette façon?

Combien de fois par semaine s'exercent-ils, et dans quel endroit?

Je suis étonné que vous ne me teniez pas au courant de pareils faits, qui sont en contravention directe de la loi du pays et du Traité de Berlin, dont nos corps de gendarmerie et de milice ont le mandat de surveiller l'exécution.

Je vous engage, M. le Capitaine, de me fournir dans le plus bref délai une reponse catégorique sur le sujet que je viens de vous exposer et de me tenir dorénavant, comme c'est votre devoir en qualité de Commandant dans la gendarmerie, informé périodiquement sur tous les faits qui ont lieu dans le rayon de votre commandement et qui concernent le bien-être, tranquillité, et état loyal du pays.

Agréez, &c.
Colonel-Inspecteur de la Gendarmerie,
(Signé) G BORTHWICK.

Inclosure 2 in No. 334.

Captain Théodoroff to Colonel Borthwick.

A M. l'Inspecteur de la Gendarmerie, *Tatar-Bazardjik, le* 22 *Janvier*, 1880.

CONFORMÉMENT à votre ordre du 20 Janvier courant, j'ai l'honneur de répondre à tous les points comme suit:—

1. Tous les jeunes habitants âgés de 21 ans jusqu'à 32 ans inclusivement, de la ville aussi bien que des villages du département de Tatar-Bazardik, se rassemblent pour être instruits dans l'art militaire.

2. Ils se réunissent pour être instruit sur la base de l'Article 411 du Statut Organique et en vertu de l'ordre de son Altesse le Gouverneur-Général en date du 30 Octobre, 1879, publié officiellement dans le journal "Narodni Glass," et du second ordre (de son Altesse) publié dans le No. 31 du même journal.

3. Ils se réunissent trois fois par semaine.

4. L'instruction est faite dans les environs des villes et des villages.

5. L'instruction est faite par des personnes civiles désignées comme instructeurs.

Comme j'avais en vue que les ordres mentionnés vous étaient connus je ne croyais pas nécessaire de vous en informer jusqu'aujourd'hui.

Le Commandant de la Compagnie,
(Signé) Le Capitaine THÉODOROFF.

Inclosure 3 in No. 334.

Colonel Borthwick to General Strecker.

Mon Général, *Le* 29 *Janvier*, 1880,

AYANT appris que des civils dans le département de Tatar-Bazardjik se rassemblent deux ou trois fois par semaine en armes dans les environs du chef-lieu du département pour s'exercer aux manœuvres, et que même la contrainte est employée envers quelques-uns dans les cas de refus de se rendre à ces exercices; j'ai écris au Capitaine Théodoroff pour me donner des détails à ce sujet.

Je m'étonne qu'au moment même où notre gendarmerie manque pour la plupart d'armes, lacune que votre Excellence à maintes fois cherché à combler, des civils s'exerçassent dans l'art militaire tout en possédant des armes qui nous manquent.

Le Capitaine Théodoroff m'a répondu qu'en effet les jeunes gens des villages du département s'exercent trois fois par semaine de la manière indiquée et ceci en vertu de l'Article 411 du Statut Organique et de l'ordre de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général en date du 30 Octobre, publié officiellement dans le "Narodni Glass," et d'un second ordre publié dans le No. 31 du même journal.

Le Capitaine Théodoroff m'informe aussi que "l'instruction est faite par des personnes civiles désignées comme instructeurs."

J'ai connaissance de ce, qu'avant sa dernière visite à Constantinople son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général avait, en vertu de ses pouvoirs, dissout les corps connus sous le nom de "Sociétés Gymnastiques," et je sais que ses membres furent destinés à être incorporés dans les divers bans de réserve de la milice, mais j'ignore encore que votre Excellence ait donné des ordres pour effectuer cette incorporation et si elle a été encore faite.

Je serais très-obligé à votre Excellence si elle voulait bien me renseigner sur ce point et me faire connaître en même temps les ordres qu'elle aurait donné à ce sujet; car l'Article 411 du Statut Organique que le Capitaine Théodoroff invoque indique seulement que les réservistes prennent part aux exercices faits dans les communes et dont le détail est fixé par la décision du Gouverneur-Général. Mais j'ignore si les personnes dont je

viens de parler sont déjà légalement incorporées dans les cadres des réservistes ou si, comme je le soupçonne, elles prennent part aux exercices comme membres de l'ancienne Société Gymnastique.

En ce cas je crois de mon devoir de vous informer de ce qui se passe.

Veuillez, &c.

Le Colonel-Inspecteur de la Gendarmerie,

(Signé) G. BORTHWICK.

No. 335.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 56. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, February 13, 1880.*

THE Procureur-Général has returned from Haskeui with a Report on the result of his inquiry into the levying of forced contributions in certain villages of the Hadji-Elles district. He stated to Aleko Pasha, in the presence of M. Schmidt, that the case had been fully proved, although sixty peasants had been brought up to swear that they had paid the contributions voluntarily.

The same functionary further stated to his Excellency that the entire Government of the province was effectually in the hands of the Committees, and that his Excellency's orders were not obeyed unless they were in conformity with the views of the Central Committee at Philippopolis.

He therefore placed at the disposal of the Governor-General the evidence which he had procured, and which was sufficient for the prosecution of the principal ringleaders.

In case, however, his Excellency did not consider it expedient to institute criminal proceedings on a large scale, the Procureur-Général said he had arranged his Report and his evidence in such a manner as to serve only, if desired, the smaller purpose of prosecuting for a minor offence the three persons whom he had imprisoned at Haskeui.

The Governor-General replied that he would take the matter into consideration, and, after consulting M. Schmidt, he agreed to convoke a special meeting of the Privy Council for the purpose of deciding on a course of action.

About an hour before the time fixed for that meeting, it was put off on the ground of the sudden indisposition of M. Christowitch, and no meeting of the Privy Council has subsequently been held.

The members of the Central Secret Committee have meanwhile been making every effort to induce Aleko Pasha to stifle the whole affair; and there appears to be much disposition on the part of his Excellency to take such a course, if he only be permitted to do so by M. Schmidt.

All the energies of the conspirators are therefore directed towards the overthrow of M. Schmidt. The first blow which they have inflicted on him consists in the issue of a Circular addressed by the Governor-General to the several Directors, calling their attention to the necessity of strictly observing Article 30 of the Organic Statute, guaranteeing the individual liberty of the inhabitants of this province.

This is manifestly a condemnation of the action of M. Schmidt in having caused to be arrested an agent of the Secret Committee, taken in the act of forcibly levying money contributions at Kara-Alan, and M. Schmidt is determined to take up the Circular in that light.

Dr. Vulcovitch, the Director of Public Works, who is at present on bad terms with the Governor-General, owing to his Excellency having transferred his personal confidence to two or three other Bulgarians of the extreme Radical or Revolutionary party, has expressed to M. Schmidt his intention of replying to the Circular in question to the effect that the members of the Permanent Committee would have done better if they renounced their connection with the Secret Committees, and had refused to accept any longer the salary of £ T. 50 a-month which some of them receive from that organization for the promotion of its revolutionary objects.

Dr. Vulcovitch also expressed to M. Schmidt his astonishment that he should believe in the promises made to him by Aleko Pasha, as enumerated in the letter by which M. Schmidt withdrew his resignation, and with which Dr. Vulcovitch became acquainted only yesterday.

M. Schmidt is therefore determined to resign unless he can succeed in suppressing the Secret Committees, the present influence and action of which, under the evident countenance of M. Christowitch, and under the encouragement afforded by the pusillanimity, if

not the disloyalty, of Aleko Pasha, render impossible the efficient discharge of duties by a Director of Finance who does not belong to the occult Administration.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 335.

Circular addressed by Aleko Pasha to the Directors of the various Departments.

(Traduction.)

M. le Directeur, *Philippopoli, le* [illegible], 1880.

IL est venu à la connaissance du Comité Permanent de l'Assemblée Provinciale que plusieurs Chefs de Service se permettent souvent de violer l'Article 30 du Statut Organique ainsi conçu :—

"La liberté individuelle est garantie. Nul ne peut être poursuivi, arrêté, emprisonné, ou soumis à une restriction quelconque de sa liberté que dans les cas prévus par la loi, et dans les formes qu'elle prescrit.

"Hors le cas de flagrant délit, et sauf l'application des règles qui comporte l'état de siége légalement établi, nul ne peut être arrêté ou emprisonné qu'en vertu d'un mandat de justice motivé, qui doit être signifié au moment de l'arrestation ou, au plus tard, dans les vingt-quatre heures qui suivront l'arrestation."

Les droits des citoyens envers les autorités constituées (locales) sont clairement définis par l'Article précité du Statut Organique, et en conséquence aucune autorité constituée ne peut s'excuser devant le Gouvernement de la province de la plus petite infraction.

C'est pourquoi et par suite de la proposition du Comité Permanent, je viens prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien rappeler aux autorités relevant de son Administration de ne pas perdre de vue la disposition de l'Article mentionné du Statut Organique même dans les cas les plus insignifiants, car quiconque se permettra d'oublier et enfreindra quelqu'une des dispositions y relatives sera poursuivie par toute la rigueur des lois.

Veuillez, M. le Directeur, porter ce qui précède à la connaissance de vos subordonnés en leur ordonnant à s'y conformer strictement.

(Signé) A. BOGORIDI.

No. 336.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 59. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, February 15, 1880.*

M. KISSIAKOFF states that when the Governor-General offered him again the post of Director of Justice he refused to accept it unless his Excellency could assure him that he had already secured the approval of the Porte.

Aleko Pasha replied that he was quite certain of the Sultan's approval; but although, under such circumstances, M. Kissiakoff reserved his acceptance for further consideration, he received, a few hours later, an official communication from Aleko Pasha appointing him to the office in question.

He consequently entered upon its duties next day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 337.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 60. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, February 15, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that M. Schmidt, the Director of Finance, transmitted yesterday to the Governor-General the Report of his agent (a copy of which I inclosed in my despatch No. 37, Confidential, of the 1st instant), accompanied by an official letter in which M. Schmidt points out that the Report establishes the

following facts, viz.: (1) that contributions in money have been forcibly levied in the district of Hadji-Elles; (2) that the contributions have been levied for a mysterious purpose for the benefit of an Association unknown to the Government; and (3) that the local officials of the Government are accomplices in those illegal proceedings.

M. Schmidt has called upon the Governor-General, on the ground of the above facts, to prosecute the offenders; and I have reason to believe that he will resign unless Aleko Pasha agrees to such a course by Tuesday or Wednesday next.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 338.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 61.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, February* 15, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 39 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the translation of a letter from a native merchant at Hadji-Elles, in the department of Haskeui, describing the efforts which are being made in that district by the agents of the Secret Committees, and principally by the Sub-Prefect of Haskeui, to prevent the Bulgarian peasantry from giving truthful evidence in the matter of the levying of forced contributions by the local Secret Committee.

It states that the position of affairs in the district of Hadji-Elles is menacing, and that there will be no peace in the country until the Sub-Prefect, who is one of the foremost agitators and Comitadjis (members of the Secret Society) is removed.

I have learnt that an excommunication similar in character to that mentioned in the letter has been launched from the pulpits of the Bulgarian churches in this immediate neighbourhood.

It is also strongly reported here that measures have been adopted to prevent anybody from visiting Bulgarian villages without a permit or pass from a local Secret Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 338.

Extract from Private Letter.

ON écrit de Hadji-Ellès, Département de Haskeui:—

"Dans les églises de tous les villages des environs des excommunications ont été lues contre tout Bulgare qui aurait des relations sociales ou commerciales avec les Grecs. En même temps les prêtres Bulgares exhortent leurs ouailles de ne pas laisser les Grecs entrer dans leurs villages.

"Chaque jour plusieurs personnes arrivent de Philippopoli et, accompagnées de notre Sous-Préfet, parcourent les villages. Ce ne sont pas des employés du Gouvernement, mais des Agents des Comité Secrets. Il paraît que ces Agents menacent les villageois pour qu'ils ne formulent pas des plaintes au sujet de l'argent qu'on les fait payer, et même ils leur enseignent ce qu'ils devront dire devant le Juge quand l'instruction commencera sur l'affaire des Comités Secrets.

"Avant-hier les habitants du village de Kozlouk se sont rendus à Haskeui pour présenter une pétition demandant la raison pour laquelle on les avait fait payer 180 livres, et s'il est juste de prélever une pareille somme sur des gens pauvres. Les autorités de Haskeui ont envoyé ces villageois à Hadji-Ellès, mais notre Sous-Préfet étant en tournée dans le district avec un Bulgare inconnu, les villageois sont retournés chez eux pour revenir quand le Sous-Préfet sera de retour.

"Ces villageois insisteront pour aller jusqu'à Philippopoli, si les autorités de Haskeui ne reconnaissent pas la justesse de leurs réclamations.

"La situation dans notre district est menaçante. Notre Sous-Préfet est un premier agitateur, un premier Comitadji. Il est impossible d'avoir la tranquillité dans le pays tant que ce personnage n'est pas éloigné."

Le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Février*, 1880.

No. 339.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 62.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, February* 15, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an article published yesterday in the "Philippoupolis," which exposes in a truthful, clear, and forcible manner the evil influences of Secret Societies in this province, and shows, in conclusion, that, unless the Local Government unites all its strength for the eradication of the evil, it will "assume a heavy responsibility towards the people of Eastern Roumelia and the Porte, as well as towards Europe and the entire world."

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 339.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of February 14, 1880.

LES COMITÉS SECRETS.—Nous avons toujours dit que la Roumélie Orientale est travaillée par les agissements des Comités Secrets, uniques auteurs du malaise politique qu'on y ressent. On se rappelle bien que dans le temps le "Golos" avait publié une série d'articles ayant trait à ces Comités. Les derniers événements qui ont eu lieu à Haskeui, ont pleinement confirmé les paroles de Mme. Kaïroff, correspondante de la feuille Russe. Aujourd'hui le doute n'est plus permis, et les personnes qui ont jusqu'ici hésité à croire à l'existence des Comités Secrets, doivent se rendre à l'évidence.

Des documents compromettants qu'on a saisis et d'autres preuves convaincantes, il résulte que ces Comités s'étendent sur toutes les parties de la province, et que leurs agents travaillent partout avec une égale assiduité. On les rencontre dans les rangs des dignitaires, sous l'humble habit du paysan, comme sous le froc de l'inoffensif religieux. Ils se sont constitués les hérauts, les ministres vigilants et secrets de la grande idée Bulgare, qui n'est rien autre chose que la destruction, l'anéantissement complet des éléments non-Slaves, habitant ce pays. Par ce moyen les Bulgares croient pouvoir achever leur union nationale, ou mieux, pour nous servir de l'expression consacrée: l'union de la Roumélie Orientale à la Bulgarie. N'ayant pas cet attrait naturel, qui distingue les nations civilisées, ils ne peuvent s'attirer les sympathies de leurs concitoyens non-Slaves; aussi les considèrent-ils comme le seul obstacle, qui empêche leur fusion avec les Bulgares d'outre-Balkans, et emploient-ils contre eux la force brutale et l'oppression.

Les Comités se sont chargés de ce soin. Ils possédaient déjà depuis la guerre tous les moyens nécessaires; il ne leur manquait qu'une organisation plus parfaite. C'était alors qu'on avait soulevé la question de savoir si l'on devait agir ouvertement ou s'il était plus prudent de cacher leurs desseins sous le masque d'une œuvre de bienfaisance. Cette dernière opinion a prévalu et l'on s'est mis à l'œuvre avec un redoublement de zèle. Tous les maux, tous les abus, tous les drames, qui ont été inscrits dans l'histoire de cette province autonome depuis un an sont l'œuvre des Comités. Les Comités envenimé les esprits, entretenue la haine et excité le fanatisme du peuple contre les Turcs [*sic*]. Ils ont déclaré une guerre à mort aux Grecs qu'ils combattent dans leur nationalité, dans leur langue, dans leur religion; ils les ont privés, comme les Turcs, de leurs droits; ils les considèrent comme des étrangers; ils veulent les expulser de ce pays; ils enlèvent leurs églises, et s'alliant à des prêtres impies, ils lancent, en plein dix-neuvième siècle, des anathèmes contre tout Bulgare qui continue à avoir des transactions commerciales ou des relations amicales avec les Grecs, et cela dans les temples mêmes où l'on adore Celui qui a prêché l'amour du prochain.

L'influence des Comités est telle que les ordres du Gouverneur-Général ne sont pas exécutés, à moins qu'ils ne caressent leurs desseins. Comme preuve de ce que nous avançons, nous rappelons à nos lecteurs le Décret par lequel Aleko Pacha supprimait les Sociétés de Gymnastique. Quel a été le sort de ce Décret, qui a facilité le voyage de notre Gouverneur à Constantinople et fait une bonne impression en Europe, parce que les Puissances ont cru que c'était le signal d'une nouvelle ère pour la Roumélie Orientale? On n'en a parlé que pendant un jour; il a été vite oublié. Aujourd'hui les Sociétés de Gymnastique existent plus que jamais. Non-seulement elles existent, mais elles sont munies de toutes sortes de provisions de guerre et possèdent un grand nombre de dépôts d'armes, parce qu'il est de l'intérêt des Comités d'avoir à leur disposition, en cas de besoin, 70,000 baïonnettes.

Pourquoi la justice cloche dans le pays? Pourquoi on y entretient les passions et les haines phlétiques entre les divers éléments de la province? Pourquoi on détruit les villages Turcs? Pourquoi on ne cherche pas à découvrir, malgré les ordres du Gouvernement, tous ceux qui se sont rendues coupables de rapt et de meurtre? Parce que cela entre dans le programme des Comités, dont les agents font jouer tous leurs ressorts pour neutraliser les efforts du Gouvernement en vue de faire cesser les dissensions intestines, qui travaillent, comme une vraie gangrène, les diverses nationalités de ce malheureux pays.

Devant l'influence de ces hommes les mouvements du Gouvernement sont paralysés et ses ordres ne sont exécutés qu'autant que le veulent permettre les Comités. Ainsi nous nous trouvons en révolution permanente, révolution sourde mais pernicieuse aux Grecs et aux Turcs, et non moins nuisible au peuple Bulgare, qui en fait tous les frais. Il paye pour apprendre comment il doit haïr, persécuter, et opprimer ses concitoyens; il paye pour compléter son éducation dans la voie du fanatisme et de la haine pour tout ce qui n'est pas Bulgare; il paye enfin pour hâter sa dégradation morale. Il paye tantôt par la violence et tantôt par la ruse et la duperie. Les agents des Comités ont le front de mettre en contribution les paysans, et de sucer le sang du pauvre ouvrier, au nom de Sa Majesté l'Empereur Alexandre. L'amour et le dévoûment du peuple Bulgare pour le Czar ne connaissent pas de bornes. Les Comités exploitent ces sentiments du peuple d'une manière honteuse mais lucrative. Ils lui disent que c'est sur la demande de l'Empereur qu'ils recueillent des souscriptions, pour compléter une somme qui doit servir à une guerre très-prochaine. Ainsi les Comités volent les paysans, et ses agents volent à leur tour les Comités.

Nous abhorrons l'ancien régime Turc, et nous avons raison. Mais en comparison des ignobles agissements et des criants abus des Comités, le régime Turc était quelque chose de divin.

Que pense donc faire le Gouvernement pour remédier au mal? Ecrasera-t-il une bonne fois pour toutes la tête du serpent, ou hésitera-t-il à en délivrer le pays? Comités et Gouvernements sont deux choses diamétralement opposées: l'une représente la révolution, l'autre la légalité. Tant qu'il y aura des Comités dans le pays, l'ordre, la justice, l'autorité, le Gouvernement seront toujours quelque chose de problématique.

Qu'ils y songent bien, ceux qui dirigent nos affaires. Ils doivent unir toutes leurs forces pour déraciner le mal; sinon ils assument une lourde responsabilité devant les peuples Rouméliotes, devant la Porte, devant l'Europe, devant le monde enfin.

No. 340.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 63.)

Philippopoli, February 15, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 428 of the 31st December last, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith, the copy of a communication which I have received from the Governor-General, inclosing a Report by the Secretary-General on the subject of the demand made by the Consular Body for the admission of foreign Assessors on the trial of mixed suits before the Civil Tribunals of this province.

M. Crestovitch states that the demand in question can only be granted with the authority of the Porte, as a favour or temporary faculty, liable from day to day to be withdrawn, not as a privilege or absolute custom.

It will be my duty, as the temporary Doyen of the Consular Body, to call my colleagues together for the purpose of consulting on the steps which should be taken in consequence of that communication.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 340.

Aleko Pasha to Mr. Michell.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Février*, 1880.

M. le Consul-Général,

J'AI l'honneur de vous transmettre, ci-joint, copie du Rapport que M. le Secrétaire-Général m'a adressé en date du $\frac{1}{13}$ Janvier courant en réponse à l'office que vous m'avez

envoyé le $\frac{15}{27}$ Décembre, 1879, relativement à la question de l'admission d'Assesseurs étrangers dans les Tribunaux de la Roumélie Orientale.

Veuillez, &c.

Le Gouverneur-Général,

(Signé) A. BOGORIDI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 340.

M. Crestovitch to Aleko Pasha.

Philippopoli, le 14 *Janvier*, 1880.

Excellence,

J'AI lu et étudié les notes qui vous ont été adressées par MM. les Consuls d'Angleterre, de France, d'Autriche-Hongrie, d'Italie, et de Grèce en réponse au Rapport que j'avais eu l'honneur de vous soumettre relativement à leur demande pour l'admission d'Assesseurs étrangers dans les Tribunaux de la Roumélie Orientale quand ils auraient à juger des affaires pendantes entre indigènes et étrangers, conformément à l'Article 20 du Statut Organique.

Je suis heureux de constater—

1. Que dans leurs notes MM. les Consuls avouent qu'il n'y a pas, comme ils semblaient le croire en invoquant l'Article 20 du Statut Organique, un Acte de Convention ou d'arrangement entre la Sublime Porte et les Puissances étrangères, qui donne un pareil droit ou privilége pour les sujets étrangers en Turquie, mais que c'était là, comme je l'avais supposé, un usage pratiqué, ou une pratique judiciaire de longtemps existant, et constituant, disent-ils, de fait, un privilége dont ils veulent se prévaloir aussi dans la Roumélie Orientale.

2. Qu'ils avouent également que cet usage ou cette pratique judiciaire est suivie en Turquie, non pas devant tous les Tribunaux et dans toutes les affaires mixtes, mais seulement devant les Tribunaux de Commerce et dans les affaires commerciales et civils autres que celles relatives aux différends d'immeubles et de location et celles qui n'excèdent pas la somme de 1,000 piastres, ainsi que l'a constaté particulièrement M. le Consul d'Autriche-Hongrie.

Ces deux points ainsi avoués et constatés je crois qu'il nous sera facile de nous accorder avec MM. les Consuls, s'ils veulent bien encore prendre en considération les observations suivantes:—

1. Oui, l'usage ou la pratique judiciaire d'accepter des Assesseurs dans les Tribunaux de Commerce de l'Empire pour les affaires mixtes ci-dessus désignées existe, mais il n'existe point comme un privilége des sujets étrangers, car les priviléges ne s'accordent et ne s'acquièrent que par Capitulations, Traités ou Conventions écrites, et il n'y en a pas. Pour preuve de cela il n'y a qu'à citer la déclaration de la Sublime Porte contenue dans le No. 6 de son Mémoire adressé le 7 Juillet, 1869, aux Représentants des Puissances étrangères.

Cette déclaration la voici:—

"En conséquence, la prétention des étrangers de ne vouloir pas suivre telle ou telle loi de l'Empire comme n'ayant pas été formellement reconnue par l'Ambassadeur ou Consul dont ils relèvent, celle de ne vouloir pas se faire juger par des Tribunaux où des étrangers ne siégeant pas en qualité de Juge ou d'Assesseurs, ainsi que celle de vouloir se soustraire aux Tribunaux ordinaires et de demander des Commissions Extraordinaires Mixtes pour régler leurs différends avec les sujets Ottomans, ces prétentions, disons-nous, ne sont appuyés d'aucun texte, et tolérées jusqu'ici par une raison ou une autre, elles ne doivent plus être admises à l'avenir." (Voir la Législation Ottomane par Aristarchi, l. II, p. 429.)

La preuve encore de ce que, avoir des Assesseurs dans les affaires mixtes n'est point un privilége mais une simple tolérance, c'est que le privilége étant de sa nature un droit absolu, doit exister partout et toujours, tant que l'Acte officiel (Capitulation ou Traité) qui l'a établi subsiste; tel est par exemple le privilége établi par les Capitulations pour le Drogman ou le Consul d'assister dans l'examen des affaires mixtes devant tout Tribunal de l'Empire Ottoman, même devant les Tribunaux du Chéri.

2. La faculté pour les étrangers d'avoir des Assesseurs n'ayant point été accordée par un tel Acte, n'a été introduite que depuis quelques années, et n'existe que devant les Tribunaux de Commerce de l'Empire et qu'à titre provisoire. En effet, lorsqu'en 1845 le Gouvernement Ottoman a pour la première fois créé un Tribunal de Commerce à Constantinople pour soustraire les affaires commerciales aux Tribunaux du Chéri, seule juridiction alors existante, indigènes et étrangers ont salué avec joie cette heureuse

institution, à laquelle cependant il y avait une juste observation à faire, c'est que les membres indigènes, ignorant en général les règles du droit et de la procédure de commerce, ne seraient pas en état de bien juger les affaires commerciales, puisqu'il n'y avait pas encore en Turquie un Code des lois et de procédure de commerce, dont ils pussent se guider. Le Gouvernement Ottoman dans sa justice, voulant prévenir une pareille objection et désirant voir son nouveau Tribunal favorablement accueilli, même par les étrangers, a pensé accorder aux étrangers et leur a accordé, quoiqu'il n'y fut point obligé, la faculté d'avoir des Assesseurs pendant l'examen de leurs contestations avec des indigènes, mais il ne leur a accordé cette faculté qu'à titre provisoire, jusqu'à promulgation du Code et de la procédure de commerce. Et pour que cela fût bien connu, il a eu le soin d'insérer cette clause et cette condition dans son ordonnance adressée à cet effet au Ministre du Commerce, laquelle se trouve jusqu'à présent dans les archives de ce Ministère.

Voilà donc quand, comment, et pourquoi les étrangers ont obtenu, non pas le privilége, mais la simple faculté provisoire d'avoir des Assesseurs au Tribunal de Commerce pour l'examen et le jugement de leurs différends commerciaux avec les indigènes, et cela pour cette bonne raison que le Tribunal de Chéri, seul Tribunal à la fois civil et commercial jusqu'alors, n'avait pas de règles propres à décider convenablement les contestations commerciales.

Mais comme on abuse souvent de toutes les bonnes choses, petit à petit, les étrangers ont aussi commencé à abuser de la dite faculté de faveur que la Sublime Porte avait bien voulu leur accorder dans l'intérêt du commerce, et profitant de l'ignorance ou de la négligence des fonctionnaires au Tidjaret, ils ont commencé à y introduire et faire juger aussi les affaires purement civiles, et voilà comment s'est établi, d'une manière tout-à fait arbitraire, l'usage d'y faire juger même les affaires civiles mobilières avec la participation des Assesseurs étrangers.

Cependant le Code de Commerce Ottoman fut promulgué en 1856, et le Code de Procédure Commerciale Ottomane en 1860, et pourtant cet usage abusif aussi bien que la faculté d'avoir des Assesseurs, qui par cela même devait cesser, puisque c'est à cette condition expresse qu'elle avait été accordée provisoirement aux étrangers, ceux-ci ont trouvé le moyen de la faire continuer sous un prétexte ou sous un autre, et profitant de cela MM. les Consuls d'ici, comme s'ils ont oublié ou complétement ignoré l'origine, la nature, et la condition de cette faculté et de cet usage, viennent officiellement en réclamer l'application même en Roumélie Orientale, que l'Europe a créé autonome, en qualifiant le dit usage de privilége acquis et en le présentant comme un usage absolu ou une pratique judiciaire sans condition, ce qui n'est pas.

Maintenant, voyons ce que la Sublime Porte pense à l'égard de ces sortes de choses.

Dans son Mémoire adressé le 7 Juillet, 1869, aux Puissances étrangères sur les Capitulations, la Sublime Porte s'exprime ainsi :—

"Les Capitulations doivent, tant qu'elles sont en vigueur, être scrupuleusement respectées au même titre que les Traités.

"Il est toutefois connu que, dans la pratique, on leur donne une élasticité qu'elles ne comportent pas, et qu'à côté des priviléges déjà exceptionnels accordés par ces Actes, il existe des abus manifestes qu'il serait impossible au Gouvernement de tolérer plus longtemps.

"C'est pourquoi la Sublime Porte, en ordonnant aux autorités Impériales d'observer strictement et en toute loyauté les dispositions contenues dans les Capitulations, ne saurait trop leur recommander en même temps de repousser toute prétention qui dépasserait les limites des priviléges consacrés par ces Actes, et qui porterait atteinte aux droits souverains et imprescriptibles de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

"Les étrangers, comme les indigènes, ont droit à la protection des lois de l'Empire, mais ce droit même entraîne pour eux l'obligation corrélative de se soumettre à ces lois. Cette règle découlant du droit des gens, n'a point été supprimée par les Capitulations."

En conséquence, la prétention des étrangers de ne vouloir pas suivre telle ou telle loi de l'Empire, comme n'ayant pas été formellement reconnue par l'Ambassadeur ou le Consul dont ils relèvent ; celle de ne vouloir pas se faire juger par des Tribunaux où des étrangers ne siégent pas en qualité de Juges ou d'Assesseurs ; ainsi que celle de vouloir se soustraire aux Tribunaux ordinaires et de demander des Commissions Extraordinaires Mixtes pour régler leurs différends avec les sujets Ottomans, ces prétentions, disons-nous, ne sont appuyées d'aucun texte, et, tolérées jusqu'ici pour une raison ou une autre, elles ne doivent plus être admises à l'avenir.

Ainsi, tout ce que je viens de dire et d'exposer sur cette importante matière étant bien avéré et bien constaté, je n'ai plus que deux mots à dire.

Si MM. les Consuls demandent l'introduction d'Assesseurs étrangers, pour l'examen et le jugement des affaires mixtes dans nos Tribunaux, comme un privilége, ou comme un

usage absolu équivalent à un privilége, je crois que nous ne pouvons pas adhérer à cette demande sans contrevenir et à la nature ci-dessus expliquée de l'usage existant en Turquie, et à l'opinion si clairement exprimée aussi de la Sublime Porte.

Si au contraire ils demandent cela comme une faveur ou comme une faculté provisoirement concédée aux étrangers et provisoirement pratiquée en Turquie, et par conséquent sujette à suppression d'un jour à l'autre, comme c'est l'opinion et l'intention de la Sublime Porte, dans ce cas je n'ai rien à dire, si ce n'est que nous pouvons bien accepter leur demande, mais à condition que nous en référions d'abord à la Sublime Porte et que nous recevions son autorisation.

Sur ce je prie votre Excellence de vouloir agréer, &c.

Le Sécrétaire-Général,
(Signé) G. CRESTOVITCH.

No. 341.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 37.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 14, 1880.

AT the sitting of the Chamber on the 6th instant the recommendation of the Committee on the elections for Milo, as reported in my despatch No. 296 of the 8th December last, that the Cretans established in that island should be allowed to elect a Deputy, came on for discussion. M. Kyriakides, Member for Milo, opposed the Bill before the House on the ground that their number did not entitle them to the privilege accorded by law to certain communities of naming a representative.

M. Messinezes maintained that Crete and the Cretans deserved especial consideration, and the affairs of that island now form one of their principal concerns, as they were always fighting alone against an Empire, whereas Thessaly and Epirus had at least a decision of the Congress of Berlin in favour of their emancipation.

M. Coumoundouros, the Prime Minister, said that the question under consideration was already solved by the different National Assemblies held in Greece at the time of the declaration of independence. The Cretans living in Greece were by law entitled to elect representatives, but this privilege was dependent on the immigrants amounting to a certain number, which number, however, had not been clearly defined, and the object of the Bill they were discussing, which would give (if passed) Deputies to these Cretans established in Milo, was to fix that number. His object, he added, was not to establish a new law, but merely to define one which already existed.

In the result, the Bill was rejected by 60 votes against 58 in favour of its adoption. I understand that the question will be again brought before the Chamber in some other form.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 342.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 39.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 15, 1880.

I INFORMED your Lordship in my telegram of the 11th instant that the Greek Government had received the news of the proposed appointment of an International Commission to determine the new line of frontier. M. Delyanni has now informed the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires at Athens that the Hellenic Government approves of this idea, and Tefvik Bey has communicated their acquiescence unofficially to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 343.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 40.)

Athens, February 15, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Ottoman Chargé d'affaires has received information from the Turkish Consul at Lamia that a Turkish subject, named Zicca, a brigand amnestied by the Turkish Government, and who, for the last three years, has been living quietly and unmolested at Lamia, was a few days ago, together with his wife, two children, and his brother, assassinated by a corporal of the regular Greek army, aided by some soldiers under his command.

Tefvik Bey has communicated this intelligence unofficially to M. Delyanni, who has promised that a strict inquiry shall be made into the circumstances, and that the persons found guilty shall be duly punished.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 344.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 42. Secret and Confidential.)

Athens, February 16, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a memorandum drawn up by Mr. Mounsey, Her Majesty's Secretary of Legation, relative to French and Italian intrigues in the Balkan Peninsula. Mr. Mounsey mentions that he had been told by the King that unless the Greek Frontier question took a turn more favourable for Greece, disturbances would certainly break out in the spring.

I have, in various despatches, expressed to your Lordship an opinion in the same sense.

The French Minister asked me yesterday if I had received any information in regard to Italian intrigues in the Balkan Peninsula, and I told him in general terms that it was known that intrigues against Austrian interests were being carried on there, and that it was said the Roman Committee which was supposed to direct them was in friendly communication with the advanced party in France and with M. Gambetta. M. Tissot scouted this idea, and expressed his disbelief that any such connection existed.

As the information contained in the memorandum has been obtained from a source independent of the Austrian Legation here, I venture to request that it may be considered very secret and confidential.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 344.

Memorandum.

(Secret.)

ABOUT the commencement of the present month Baron de Wacken, the Austro-Hungarian Chargé d'Affaires here, received a despatch from Baron Haymerle instructing him to watch carefully and report on the proceedings of any Italians or Frenchmen who had arrived or might arrive in Greece, and appear to be engaged in political intrigues, the nature of which was fully described in the copies of the numerous Reports from the Diplomatic Agents of Austria-Hungary at Paris, Rome, Bucharest, and Belgrade, which accompanied the despatch.

The substance of these Reports was to the effect that Committees, formed of members of the extreme Radical parties in Italy and France, were working against the interests of Austria in the Balkan Peninsula, especially in Roumania and Servia, and in Albania. Gambetta was stated to be closely connected with the Committee at Paris, and the Greek Chargé d'Affaires at Rome, M. Paparigoupoulo, was said to be a member of the Roman Committee. Emissaries had been sent by the latter to Bucharest, Belgrade, and Albania, and funds were stated to be supplied by both French and Italians. The object of these machinations was, on the part of Italy, to acquire

primarily a protectorate, and ultimately possession, of Albania; whilst the aim of the French in thus aiding the Italians was to secure an alliance with them against Germany and Austria, and to render Servia and Roumania hostile to the latter Empire.

About the same time information of a similar character reached the King of Greece. In a confidential conversation which he had with an intimate friend of mine (not a Greek) on the 9th instant, His Majesty stated that he had learnt from Paris and elsewhere that France and Italy had been playing him false in the Frontier question. The French Minister had, he said, latterly advised the Greek Government to desist from demanding an augmentation of territory in Epirus, and to seek compensation on the Thessalian side; and he now learnt that this advice had been given in order that a free field might be left to the Italians in Albania, the whole of which province they were desirous to obtain, one of their objects being to offer it to Austria in exchange for Italia Irredenta, in case they could not obtain the latter by other means. Italy, the King said, was aided by Gambetta and his party, and their reward was the promise of an alliance in case of war between France and Germany.

On the 12th instant the Austro-Hungarian Consul, M. Rémy, intercepted letters and documents sent by members of an Italian and Greek Committee sitting at Lamia (Zeitoun) to their friends in Athens. These letters were, I believe, not brought by the ordinary post, but by the captains of vessels plying between the Piræus and the Gulf of Zeitoun. They placed beyond doubt, I am told, the existence at Lamia of a Committee of Italians and Greeks which was in correspondence with the Committee at Rome, and had received from it arms and ammunition. Distinct reference was also made in them to supplies of dynamite, which appeared to have been sent to a wrong address.

M. Rémy at once communicated these letters to Baron de Wacken, who, being without instructions to make a communication on the subject to the Greek Government, and being unwilling to trust to his own judgment, consulted his Consul as to the proper course to take. M. Rémy having only lately arrived in Athens, and being therefore disinclined to take upon himself the entire responsibility of advising his chief, talked the matter over with the spiritual head of the Catholic community. This gentleman is a Jesuit, named Don Paulo, who has passed most of his life at Athens, and enjoyed the confidence of Baron Prokesch and his successors at the Austrian Legation up to the arrival of Count Dubsky, who appears to have thought it unnecessary to make use of his intimate knowledge of the country and its people.

Don Paulo's advice was to the effect that Baron de Wacken should mention the matter in a cautious manner to the King, without, of course, saying anything about the intercepted letters. He argued that this course ought to be pursued because it could not injure Austrian interests, and might advance them. The King, he said, might prevent the Lamian Committee taking any action, and if he did not, Austria would know what to expect from Greece.

M. Rémy consequently advised his superior to speak to the King, and on the 10th instant Baron de Wacken had an audience of His Majesty.

At this audience Baron de Wacken stated briefly to the King that the Austro-Hungarian Government had proofs of the existence of a Committee composed of members of the extreme Radical and Italia Irredenta party sitting at Rome and intriguing for a revolt in Albania, that the Greek Chargé d'Affaires, M. Paparigoupoulo, and the Greek Consul at Naples were members of this Committee, which was in correspondence with Gambetta and his party in France, whence funds were supplied. He added that he had just learnt that there was a Sub-Committee at Lamia corresponding with another at Athens, and that the former had arms and ammunition, and appeared to be ready for action.

Baron de Wacken states that the King did not seem surprised at hearing of the proceedings of the Roman Committee and Gambetta, but that he expressed genuine astonishment at learning that his Diplomatic Agent at Rome had a part in the affair. As to the Lamia Committee, His Majesty said that he thought Baron de Wacken had been misinformed, or had received exaggerated reports of what was going on there. Some excitement had, he said, taken place there, but it was caused by "Bauernfaugern," an expression made use of, I believe, in regard to the capture of peasants attempting to evade the conscription.

To this latter remark Baron de Wacken replied that he feared His Majesty must be mistaken, because dynamite was not generally used in catching recalcitrant conscripts. At the word dynamite the King got up, and asked Baron de Wacken what he meant. The latter replied that his reports distinctly mentioned dynamite as being amongst the ammunition sent to Lamia. The King then repeatedly asked for further information on the subject; but Baron de Wacken answered that his instructions were merely to give His

Majesty a clue to what was going on in his dominions, and that he had nothing more to say.

I should add that, whilst M Rémy and Don Paulo were talking of this affair at the house of the former, Dr. Zinnis, a leading member of the medical profession at Athens, was announced, and admitted at the request of Don Paulo, who offered to extract from him a full confirmation of the subject of this memorandum. This the Jesuit father did in the most discreet manner, and apparently without exciting the least suspicion in the doctor's mind.

According to Dr. Zinnis' version of the matter, the Committees at Rome and Lamia were hard at work, and their object was to induce the Albanians to revolt against the Turks, and to assist them to obtain their independence. Northern Albania was then to become a separate State under the Protectorate of Italy, and Southern Epirus was to be annexed to Greece. He said that he himself was a member of the Athenian Committee, and that funds were provided by Italians, French, and rich Greeks living abroad, and he incidentally mentioned, without stating his grounds for the assertion, that Mr. Gladstone was cognizant and in favour of the movement.

From all that I have heard in regard to the Lamia Committee, my impression is that preparations have been made to foment distubances in Thessaly and Epirus, in case the Greeks see no prospect of an early settlement of the Frontier question, and this impression is confirmed by what I myself have heard from the King, who, during the last two months, has twice told me in the most serious manner that, unless this question took a more favourable turn for Greece, disturbances would certainly break out in the spring. I think, however, that action may be deferred if there is a prospect of a speedy and satisfactory settlement.

(Signed) AUG. H. MOUNSEY.

Athens, February 16, 1880.

No. 345.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 43.)
Athens, February 19, 1880.

My Lord,

M. BRAÏLAS, the Greek Commissioner to the Conferences at Constantinople, has been granted leave of absence to go to Corfu to be present at the marriage of his daughter. The Military Attaché to the Conference has returned to Athens.

I informed your Lordship some time ago that the Third Commissioner, Major Colocotroni, had returned to Athens.

At this moment, therefore, all the Greek members of the Commission, except the Greek Minister at Constantinople, have quitted that capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 346.

Consul Reade to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 2. Political.)
Corfu, February 24, 1880.

My Lord,

I HASTEN to bring to your Lordship's knowledge a circumstance of which I have heard from a very reliable source.

The official language of the Turkish Province of Epirus has, I believe, from time immemorial been the Greek, but it appears that it has just been suppressed, and the Turkish is now the only one allowed before the Tribunals.

I have just heard, as I said above, from a very reliable source, that this has created the utmost discontent, as many of the Epirots can only express themselves in Greek, and understand no Turkish.

Indeed, one well-informed gentleman told me that in consequence of this very impolitic measure the very women and children are now crying out to be released from the Turkish yoke.

I am told that this step has been taken by the Portei n deference to several recently-appointed Turkish officials who are not acquainted with the Greek language.

It appears inexplicable that the Porte should have adopted such a measure at a moment when of all others it was its interest to give the Epirots no legitimate cause for discontent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 347.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, February 27, 1880, 3 P.M.

THE [group wrong; ? Chief]s of Roman Catholic tribes of Hoti having heard that there has been a question of giving up a portion of their mountains instead of Gusinjé, have come and declared to me that, although they are treated badly by the Turks, they will fight to the last man rather than submit to Montenegro, and from other equally certain information I gather that without fail resistance will be [group wrong; ? offer]ed against any attempt to surrender Albanian territory to the westward of Lake of Scutari.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 348.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(Telegraphic.)
Belgrade, February 27, 1880, 6·30 P.M.

M. RISTICH to-day declared to me that he will resign rather than yield to Austrian demands that Servia should engage herself to construct a branch line from Nisch to Pirot within a delay of three years, dating from signature of Railway Convention now under discussion between the two countries, before Bulgaria has entered into an engagement to effect a junction with the Servian lines.

The Austrian Minister here having just assured me that under no circumstances would the Austrian Government abandon the above-mentioned demands, the resignation of Servian Prime Minister becomes a matter of days.

No. 349.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.)
Bucharest, February 27, 1880, 9 P.M.

ROUMANIAN Government have sent their Agents abroad telegraphic instructions to communicate to Powers their urgent request that the long-pending Arab-Tabia question may be settled definitively without further delay. This application to the Powers has been likewise sent to St. Petersburgh, thus giving at the same time an indirect though pointed reply to the proposal of the Russian Government, reported in my despatch No. 24, Secret.

No. 350.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 89.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, February 27, 1880, 11·20 P.M.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 86 of the 24th, there is every reason to believe that the pretended conspiracy was got up by a Christian renegade, named Arismuchi, of a well-known Greek family, and one of the Sultan's Aide-de-camps, probably with a view to extort money from His Majesty, who, I am informed, is now persuaded of this.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

No. 351.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28, 4 P.M.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, February* 28, 1880.

WITH reference to Mr. White's telegram of yesterday, I am told confidentially that the Austrian Government have been given to understand that, though Russian Government will not be a party to giving Arab-Tabia to Roumania, and will not sign an Act by which this would be effected, they will tolerate it if decided by the other Powers.

A promise made by the Emperor of Russia that the place should belong to Bulgaria prevents him from going further in acquiescing.

No. 352.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, February* 29, 1880.

AUSTRIAN Chargé d'Affaires has been informed by his Government that the French Ambassador in London had told Count Károlyi that a complete understanding had been come to between England and the French Government on the Greek frontier question, and that instructions would be sent at once to the Representatives of the Great Powers here and at Constantinople.

(Copy sent to Constantinople.)

No. 353.

Consul Reade to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Corfu, February* 29, 1880.

IF I can be serviceable, Janina or elsewhere Epirus, respecting Captain Synge, command me.